moon), but the stars of the sky (firstfruits) come down to earth in a ministry of power at the beginning of the Great Tribulation, and a timely ministry of testimony goes forth in spiritual and natural Israel, as the early fruits of the fig tree in the gale (Rev.7:4). God's wrath, coupled with man's inhumanity to man, culminates in the pouring out of the Bowls of Wrath and the destruction of everything that is not of God (Isa.2:19, 20). :15-17 - There is no turning to God in the days of the Bowls of Wrath, for the door will be shut (Lk.13:23-25, 2Thess.1:8-9, Zeph.2:1-3, Prov. 1:27-29), but there will be great anger against God as well as great fear of the results of His wrath. Who is able to stand before it? Too late they recognize He was indeed the Lamb (IJohn 2: 28).

- REV. 7 -

This section is still under the 6th Seal and it takes a closer look at the Church from just before the beginning of the Great Tribulation until its end. :1 - The 4 angels who stir up the nations (Dan.7:2, Zech.6:5) are given a hold-order before the start of the Great Tribulation. It is a holding back of disciplinary and destructive judgments, a delay in final destruction and waiting while the 'sealing angel' accomplishes a certain work. The 4 winds of the earth picture the world-wide effects of nuclear warfare, for it is the resultant wind action that brings large-scale destruction. :2 - The rising of the sun is the great outpouring of the fulness of God's brightness and power, the Joel 2:28 greater fulfillment and the angel carries the seal of the living God. See Rev.3:12 notes and Ezek. 9 on the Seal of God and the sealing. Either before or during the Tribulation, all who are to be received by Christ into His heavenly Kingdom and enter the New Jerusalem must be sealed on the forehead. The order of the sealings in Scripture is, 1 - with Christ's redemptive name, on earth (John 1:12-13, Jas.1:21-22, IPet.1:23); 2 - with the Holy Spirit baptism on earth (Matt.3:11, Acts 1:5, 8), which is the foretaste of the incipient sealing on the forehead for those who go on to receive the full impress of the mind of Christ and His preparatory work (Eph.1:13-14); 3 - impressed with the name of God, on earth, kept fully protected (John 6:27, 17:11, 23, Rev.3:12); 4 - with the name of New Jerusalem in heaven with a glorified body; 5 - with Christ's new name, in heaven, when ready to reign and rule with Him. "5" is the numerical signature of freedom, a release, for the Spirit has then done a complete work in the believer.

:3 - The 'earth' is the organizations of men, the 'sea' is the masses of people, the 'trees' are well-rooted leaders and rulers and therefore also nations. :4-8 - This sealing has two applications, primarily that of sealing the firstfruits group of spiritual Israel (Rev. 14:1), but also the later 144,000 group of physical Israel (the

ization that shall be destroyed by it.

Because the 'wrath of God' is to be visited upon man and upon his corrupt civilization by the destructive fire power and by the radiation from large scale use of nuclear weaponry, John describes this time as the great day of God's wrath in which few will be able to stand (Rev.6:17). The great day of God's wrath began when the first atomic bomb fell on Hiroshima, August 6, 1945, with massive destruction, but it will not be consummated until the 7 Bowls of Wrath are poured out at the end of the Great Tribulation. The delay in the full expression of God's wrath is effected by a hold order given to the 4 angels at the 4 corners of the earth who are instructed not to unleash judgment until the sealing angel has 'sealed' the servants of God in their foreheads (Rev.7:1-3). The 4 winds of the earth are used to illustrate the world-wide effects of atomic destruction, because the large scale desctruction is primarily by atmospheric shock wave and wind from the exploding bombs. The opening of the 6th Seal pictures the beginning of nuclear fire power, but it also introduces the great day of God's wrath, and in addition it envisions the final and catastrophic consummation, after the 'hold order' has run its course and the 'winds' are loosed.

The breaking of the 6th Seal brings on the rumblings prior to the great earthquake. Hag.2:5-7, Heb.12:26-29 tell of God's shaking the religious heavens, the financial heavens and all the earth (the organizations and systems of man) and all of these are a prelude to the great collapse of all that can be shaken. The shaking has begun. The great earthquake is both symbolic and literal; it is the total shaking and disrupting of all man's vaunted society and it is literal shaking of the earth. Both continue with increased intensity to the end of the Age, and so great will be the effects of massive explosions thru-out the earth that it shall reel to and fro like a drunkard (Isa.24:20). :13-14 - Because of the accelerations and gyrations of the earth, strange sights will be seen in the heavens. Also the abnormal movement of the earth during that time of great shaking will produce great windstorms which will add to the air forces from nuclear explosions, bringing violent atmospheric turbulence and upheavals. The violent atmospheric disturbances and the phenomena appearing in the starry heavens, because of the earth's erratic movement, will indeed bring that experience described as heaven departing as a scroll when it is rolled together. The great shaking and twisting of the earth's crust will also cause mountains and islands to be displaced. The symbolic content speaks of great spiritual darkness among the willfully rebellious (darkened sun) and great bloodletting by the rebellious nations (bloody

firstfruits of physical Israel on earth). It may be the '..., 000' ending indicates a fulfillment of the Spirit's purpose, a rest of the Holy Spirit in the matter, making the 144,000 symbolic of all those who have met the basic requirements for manifesting Christ. The 144,000 group out of spiritual Israel is mentioned especially, because those in it are the firstfruits (Rev.14:4) and because the Lord has a special purpose for it. These are not the only ones to be sealed, but they are sealed first because they are to precede their brothers into the heavenly Kingdom, that of Zion (Rev.14:1), and they must be made ready to be taken before the great hour of trial comes to try all men on the earth (Rev.3:10). Therefore, they are to be sealed with the seal of the living God before the angels loose the 4 winds of judgment, and the sealing is in or on their foreheads, their minds (Rev.14:1). A minimum number of the servants of God must be sealed as firstfruits before the judgments begin to fall, and then afterward others are to be sealed as they reach the level of qualification. After the 144,000 group of spiritual Israel is moved to the heavenly Kingdom for use there, an earthly remnant of the firstfruits is sealed and empowered (Rev.12:17) at the beginning of the 3-1/2 years of Great Tribulation, and then a remnant of the chosen seed of Israel, a Jewish group, is sealed for a ministry of power in the Jewish nation during the Tribulation (Mic.5:2-4).

The Lord has promised to come in this day with might and power to show the glory of His presence in the midst of His people. He has promised to arise with healing, both of disease and of unbelief, in His 'wings', literally extensions of Himself (Mal.4:2). He will give His people that which they desire, even the fulness of His glory in this day, so that there may be a shining among them like the radiance of the sun. Just as the sun shines and gives light and warmth to the earth, so shall the Lord be as the rising of the sun in the midst of His people so that they may give forth His light and His salvation in this day.

The Lord will cause His people to enter into new realms in Him and they will be clothed with His power and glory, even as the glory of the sun. The true Church, the faithful woman, is to be clothed with the sun (Rev.12:1) which clothing is a type of the Lord's spiritual power in the midst of the people. In this last day of the Age, the light of the sun shall be 7 times brighter (Isa.30:26) in the midst of His people. The people of the Lord who are trusting in Him and who are coming into that which He has purposed shall shine forth to the world seven times more glorious than that which has been seen. Seven is the number of the Church and pictures the true Body of Christ coming into the fulness of His purpose.

But Scripture also says that the light of the moon shall then

be as the light of the sun (Isa. 30:26). This pictures that time when a remnant of the chosen seed of Israel, even the 144,000 group of the physical descendants of Abraham, the Jewish remnant, shall turn to the Lord at the beginning of the Tribulation period. In them, light of the moon, which represents the reflective and distorted light of those yet under the rudiments of the law, shall become as the sun, which represents the light of the Christian gospel. Thus the 7-fold light shall shine forth from the Lord's specially chosen, anointed company which has been prepared by Him, but also that which has given forth only the meager light of the moon shall shine forth with the brilliance of the sun.

This will be the beginning of fulfillment of the binding up of the breach of His people and the healing of the wound (Isa. 30:26). For the Lord will bring forth a Body which is walking in the unity of His Spirit. and that breach which has divided His people will be bound up. They will walk forth in the full liberty of their God, and that wound which has kept them from walking in His full light and power will be healed. In the same manner, it shall be fulfilled for the Lord's earthly people, the physical seed of Abraham. The breach which was made when He cast His people off shall be bound up as He receives a representative number for His work. As they were cast off in anger, so shall they be drawn to the Lord with great mercy, and the breach which has kept them cast off from the Lord's presence for an entire age shall begin to be bound up. The Lord will receive them and the wound which came upon them because of the rejection of the Lord in human flesh shall also begin to be healed. As they wounded their Lord, so He wounded them, and they have wandered, unhealed, throughout this Age.

But now the Lord moves to heal and restore. Shall He not also heal the age-long enmity between Christian and Jew? Shall He not bind up the breach and make His people one in these last days of the Age? Surely He will take the stick of Ephraim and join it to the stick of Judah (Ezek.37:16-19). Surely He will join the house of Israel, now represented by the nations of Christendom, to the house of Judah, represented by that people known as the Jews. Truly He will bind up that brotherhood which was broken when His staff was cut asunder, when the anointed One, the Messiah, was crucified (Zech.11:7-14). The Lord shall once again take that which was beautiful in His hands and will bring it once more into its rightful place, so that the brotherhood between the house of Israel and the house of Judah might be restored. This He will do as He joins together His people in this last day, and it shall be a time of great rejoicing as His people who call upon His name are healed of their unbelief and as they go forth to proclaim His truth. That anointed company of overcomers which He is raising up shall speak forth the Truth in power.

The light of that day shall be glorious as the 7-fold light of the sun, or His chosen Body, shines forth, accompanied by the light of the moon become as the light of the sun. The result will be an 8-fold light shining forth in this end-time. It will be the light of full resurrection power and glory to bring regeneration to multitudes, as the Lord moves to bring forth that which He has purposed for this end-time. Therefore, rejoice in the great light which shall overcome the intense darkness, for great will be the manifestation of the glory of the Lord in this day, and you shall know the fulness of that which He has prepared and reserved for this time.

:9 - The scene is now in heaven before the throne, those sealed ones having been taken up to heaven, the dead in Christ first and then those still alive (IThess.4:16-17). This is the extension of the 6th Seal events into the Harvest time at the end of the Great Tribulation and the fulfillment of the promise to the martyrs in Rev.6:11. These are overcomers and the palm branches signify victory (the people carried them when Christ came into Jerusalem on a donkey - not at that time on a horse, denoting war). :14 - White robes (righteousness) are the glorified body attire of overcomers who have been translated to heaven (Rev.3:4, 19:8). While on earth they previously 'washed their robes' in the redemptive blood of the Lamb (Rev.7:14) and kept them clean. This is the Harvest group of overcomers having not only the gift of eternal life (Ro.6:23) previously given in the earthly realm, but also the prize of the heavenly calling (Phil.3:14) has been awarded to bring them to the heavenly realm. Again note that all the Seals extend to the end of the Great Tribulation. :17 - At the end of the period of troubles and at the beginning of the millenium period of peace under the rule of Jesus Christ, He is seen in the midst of the throne. Previously He has been at the right-hand of the Father (Col.3:1). Jesus is here on His own throne in the New Jerusalem, after the Great Tribulation.

- REV. 8 -

The 7th Seal continues on the subject of <u>the</u> Church. :1 - Immediately after the 7th Seal is broken, there is silence in heaven for about one-half hour, indicating a deferral of certain things and a holding back of action or an inactivity in this specific thing. Keep in mind that the 7th Seal does not follow the completion of the 6th Seal, but is opened shortly after the 6th Seal is opened, as all the Seals are opened in rapid succession over a short period of time. The various forces released under each Seal continue in their development to the end, producing an overlapping of the Seals. The 'silence in heaven' after the 7th Seal is opened is a direct result of the hold order

given to the angels in charge of the 4 winds of the earth (Rev.7:1). It serves to defer the complete fulfillment of the 'day of wrath' through destruction by nuclear warfare and its purpose is to give an added period of time for preparation and sealing of a minimum number of God's servants. It is during this period of silence or deferment of full atomic wrath that all of the 7 warning Trumpets are blowing, portraying events that are leading up to the final outpouring of wrath. And for this reason, in :5 there is a pick up of the events unleashed in the 6th Seal (Rev.6:12), just before the first warning Trumpet sounds. The fire from the heavenly altar is cast on the earth and the earthquake which follows is the same nuclear-energy earth-shaking described under the 6th Seal. This fire is cast on the earth as the first warning Trumpet blows. Although full wrath is delayed for a short time, the 1st Trumpet blasts out its warning that the discovery of atomic power and its incorporation into destructive weaponry will eventually affect all the inhabitants of the earth (the green grass) and completely destroy 1/3 of the earth's inhabitants and nations (trees) (Rev. 8:7).

Those in heaven stand in silence and in awe of what is about to be revealed on the forthcoming events that will lead up to the consummating of God's plans for His Church. 'Seven' is the number of His Church, and when this 7th Seal is broken, the matters concerning His Church are set in motion. The 7th Seal starts the development of specific stratagem that involves His Church; the 7th Trumpet announces His coming for His Church; the 7th Bowl brings on the wiping away of everything <u>not</u> in harmony with His Church.

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

- REV. 8 -

(Trumpets 1-4)

Before studying the announcements of the 7 Trumpets, read Exodus 19 and the picturing of the new covenant given by Christ which is for us in this day. The promise is that He will bear us on eagle's wings during the trouble (:4). Note the conditional 'if' in :5 and the promise specifically for us as spiritual Israel in :6. In :10 and :11, the Lord promises deliverance on the morning of the 3rd day (to the Lord, 1000 years is as a day(2Pet.3:8) and we are to <u>be</u> ready by the 3rd day (the starting of the Trumpets), for the Lord will come down. A mountain (here Mt. Sinai) signifies a kingdom (His Kingdom). The people are to wash their clothes (soul-garments) before the 3rd day (:14). As the trumpet blast sounded, and it was a long blast, there were thunders and lightenings (judgments) and the Lord descended to the clouds near to the top of the mountain. The sound of the Trumpets grew louder and louder. Moses went up first to the top, a picture of the firstfruits being taken up

to meet Him in the clouds, and then he was sent back to warn the people of the earth with God's warnings. There was further sanctification of the priests and then Aaron (the glorious Church) later accompanied Moses into empowerment, picturing two groups to be used by the Lord in these end-days. There will be further notes on the two groups in the Chapter 11 comments.

The 7th Seal and the simultaneous blowing of the 7 Trumpets carry through to the end of the Great Tribulation, and at the last sounding of the 7th Trumpet the 7 Bowls of Wrath are poured out to cleanse the earth and prepare the way for the coming King. The 'day of wrath' is a necessary prelude to the answering of the prayer which Jesus taught His disciples to pray: "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven" (Matt.6:10). This prayer has ascended from the lips of multiplied thousands down through the present Age. The acceptance of such prayers is shown as being in the very midst of, and as a part of, the heavenly episodes which prepare for judgment. :3-4 - Just before the 7 Trumpets begin their blasts of warning judgments, John sees an angel come and stand at the heavenly altar of incense, having a golden censer filled with the prayers of all the saints. There, he was given much incense to add to the prayers so that he could offer the whole upon the golden altar which was before the throne, and the smoke of the incense mingled with the prayers of the saints ascended before God out of the angel's hand. This angel's ministering at the heavenly altar is representative of the high priestly ministry of Jesus Christ. In the symbolic picture, intercessory prayers (incense) of Him who always is living to intercede and petition for them (Heb.7:25) are added to the prayers of the saints and the combination rises before God. As a result of these prayers, the preliminary Trumpet judgments are set in motion, preparing the way for the final Bowls of Wrath. God does nothing among men without an invitation and this one is now accepted. When the earth is swept clean of its refuse at the conclusion of the Trumpets and the Bowls of Wrath developments, the way will be prepared for the full implementation of the Kingdom of light and love, to be ruled over by saints in glorious splendor, giving full allegiance to Him whose name is the Word of God and who bears the title King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Rev. 19:13, 16). Therefore, you too pray that the day will hasten, that your prayers also may ascend and fill the Temple in heaven with sweet fragrance so that God may respond to give His called-out ones rest from the oppressor and a full and abundant entrance into His Kingdom.

As each Trumpet begins to blow, it announces the start-up of events and forces which develop and continue to carry on through to the end of the Great Tribulation period. Each Trumpet sets in motion, at its in-

itial blast, that which is to progressively unfold on the world scene, as a result of its sounding. When the unfolding has been described, then we are taken back in time to hear the sound of the next Trumpet and see the events and forces announced by that sounding develop through to the end of the period. Then we back up again to hear the next Trumpet. Each Trumpet begins to blow a little later than the initial sounding of the previous one, but they overlap and all continue to blow concurrently, once they have begun. Each starts in sequence and continues to the end of the Great Tribulation, until a mighty crescendo is reached in the climax of all things. The Trumpets are for the purpose of sounding warning, remedial in nature, to call the people together for instructions and to call them to be ready to move into what the Lord shows (Num. 10:1-10). They are a warning that the judgment of all things is at hand and that the wind-up of the Age is rapidly drawing near. Coupled with a special moving of the Spirit, they are a calling of His people to get ready for the grand climax of all things and to call together a Body to go forth in power to reap a great harvest, anointed as Jesus was in His day to do mighty works. As this Body fulfills its mission, it will be made ready to cross over into the promised land to receive the fulness of that which has been prepared for those who are called and chosen and faithful. By mid-1967, six of the Trumpets had begun their soundings and they are all continuing. When the blowing of the 7th Trumpet starts, the final veil will be removed and all men shall see clearly what has been a mystery up to that moment in human history. At the time of the beginning of the Great Tribulation, the saints are seen giving fervent invitation for Christ to set all things right. God does nothing among men, except by their invitation. (As elsewhere stated in these notes, current prophecy, or Word from the Lord, is the basis for illuminating the symbolism used to picture the events. While the validity of the source has been checked, each reader also has the responsibility to ask for and receive the witness of the Holy Spirit that these interpretations are given by him.) In IChron.15:24, 7 trumpets blow prior to the Ark (symbolizing Jesus Christ) being returned to its proper place, and the picture is that of Christ's personal return to His place on earth at the consummation of the 7th Trumpet. But first, He must return to His rightful place as the Head of the Church.

:5 - <u>The First Trumpet</u>. In answer to the fervent invitation of His wholly dedicated people, the Angel (Jesus Christ) took fire from the altar and cast it down on the earth. Then there were judgments and the shaking of things and following these the Trumpets started to blow.

The casting of fire on the earth results from the discovery by man of the secret of the atom

and its mighty fire power. During and after World War II came the beginning of events unleashed by the blowing of the 1st Trumpet (July, 1945). The initial sounding of the 1st Trumpet unleashed the power of the atom for destruction and the blowing continues in its unfolding to the end of the Great Tribulation. As the fury mounts (Acts 2:17-19), the energy will raise water vapor to high altitudes by nuclear weapon heat-action and it will congeal into very large hailstones which will fall as a rain of destruction. These hailstones, as they fall, will be mixed with the fire from continuing nuclear explosions and with the blood of multitudes who will be slain. The great explosions and fire descending from above are the same as that brought down by the beast of Rev.13:13 from what man shall place in the heavens and shoot into the air. As this Trumpet blows, eventually 1/3 of the nations (trees-Judges9:7-15, Isa.44:3-4, Lk.6:42-43, Jude 10-12) are devastated, 1/3 of the earth's population is destroyed, and almost all inhabitants of the earth still in their carnal ways (green grass which is carnal flesh) (Isa.40:6-7, IPet.1:24) are to be scorched or burned by heat or radiation, in one way or another, all people except those who are protected by God, sealed by God's 'name'. Those who are under that covenant seal of their God do not come under the symbolism of the green grass, which is a type of all carnal flesh. The fact that over 1 billion of earth's people will die because of nuclear explosions does not mean that only this number of earth's inhabitants will be destroyed, for there will be many other types of destruction which will take a heavy toll of life.

These events described under the sounding of the 1st Trumpet, as with each of the other Trumpets, do not have their complete fulfillment until all of the Trumpets have sounded and have completed their sounding. The development and fulfillment continue to the close of the Tribulation period.

It is not necessarily important to have a precise date or some spectacular event to signal the initial blowing of each Trumpet, though these are not excluded. If one is watchful and alert and if one has the Scriptures hidden in his heart, he will be able to tell from the "tone" of the world developments that the Trumpets are blowing. The more prepared a person is in God's Word the earlier he will understand that they have started. The more practice a person has had in listening to the Lord speak to him (and this does take regular, consistent practice) the stronger will be the Holy Spirit's confirmation that the Trumpets have started blowing.

:8 - <u>The Second Trumpet</u>. The warning announcement of the 2nd Trumpet is that of a great mountain, blazing with fire, being cast into the sea. A mountain in Scripture is a type of nation or kingdom (Isa.2:2-3, 64:1-3, Rev.17:9-10) and so a great mountain would be a great or leading nation in the earth. Which nation on earth is great enough to fulfill this descrip-

tion? This greatness of which the Scripture speaks is not equated with size or land mass, neither with the numbers of its people. There is only one nation which can adequately fulfill this designation of greatness in the Lord's eyes, and that nation is the United States of America. But why will this nation, so great in its Christian tradition and ability to give direction and example to the entire world, be cast into the sea? It is written that to whom much is given, much is required (Lk.12:47-48). What other nation has been so blessed in scientific achievement and accomplishment in the undoing of the burdensome toil that man has known during milleniums of time? What nation besides America has received as great an understanding and enlightenment from the Word of God through many movings of the Spirit of God to bless untold thousands? But America has failed miserably in her stewardship; therefore, she shall be judged severely. It shall be a judgment which shall arise from within her own borders. Although America shall not escape destruction from outside, for many bombs and missiles shall fall upon this land later, the primary judgment upon America will be the turmoil and unrest that will arise from within, plunging the nation into a 'sea' of confusion and strife. The 'sea' is a type of masses of people in agitation and revolution (Isa.57:20, Rev.17:15). Already there are signs of this turmoil and unrest evident in many places and segments of society, for the Trumpet of judgment has has already been blown, and the inevitable falling of this great nation into a sea of revolution is now in its initial stages.

:9 - As a result of the mountain's fall, 1/3 of the sea is to become blood, and 1/3 of the creatures in the sea are to die, and 1/3 of the ships are to be destroyed. The sea is a type of peoples and ships are a type of local governments which are in the midst of the sea of peoples. A third part of the people in this nation shall be embroiled in such serious conflict that they will become a menace to the very life of the nation. The governing bodies, represented by the ships, will be so completely overwhelmed that law and order will be utterly disrupted in many states and areas, causing a chaotic condition unprecedented in the history of the nation. Violence will erupt in many places as strife and unrest increase among the masses of the people. One out of every three persons shall be involved in one way or another in such violent disruption that the very existence of the nation will be threatened. Then shall come the necessity of clamping an all-powerful dictatorship upon the inhabitants of this land, with absolute controls on every facet of life, but unprecedented civil strife will continue amid increasing peril from without. Only a great spiritual revival in certain parts of the nation will keep it from being completely inundated by the waters of internal turmoil. Truly, a once great nation shall fall in-

to the 'sea' of conflict, and it will mean the end of an era.

The great mountain that is to be cast into the sea was burning with 'fire', fire being a type for the people's inflamed passions with which they will become engulfed, the obsession in multitudes with burning desire, the unrequited and insatiable 'burnings' of lust, greed, avarice, jealousy, and hatred which will pit class against class, race against race, employee against employer, people against government, people against religion, and people against one another in one mad orgy of lawlessness and violence. This will be the direct result of the moral and spiritual decay which has been eating away at the vitals of the nation for many years. The 'flames' will be continually fanned by subversives well entrenched in almost every segment of society.

A third part of the creatures died, which were in the sea and had life. The sea not only pictures masses of people in turmoil, but water, whether in the sea or otherwise, is also a symbol of the human soul with its emotions and desires which is as unstable as water (James 1:6-8, Jude 13), when uncontrolled by reason and righteous judgment (Gen.49:3-4). The creatures of the sea typify the entire gamut of emotions and desires which 'swim' in the human soul. Usually an emotion or desire does not have 'life' unless it is stimulated or stirred up in one way or another, but when made 'alive' such emotions and desires have great power to bring about either evil or good. The picture presented is one of base emotions and desires being stirred up or made 'alive' for producing evil and destruction. Thus they become potential killers of the peace and well-being of others. Here is the meaning of the statement that 1/3 of the creatures, which had life or were made alive, died. The only way an emotion or desire which is stimulated into life can die, from a carnal perspective, is to be exercised until its strength is spent and it abates into silence. Thus it will be to a once great nation which has lost its moorings and to a people no longer anchored to the faith of their fathers.

:10 - <u>The Third Trumpet</u>. With the blowing of the 3rd Trumpet, a great star falls from heaven onto the rivers and fountains of waters, upon that which feeds the greater bodies of water. Since waters are a type of peoples, the picture shows the very leaders and fountain-heads of society being affected by this star, called wormwood. This star, burning as a torch and giving out its own light, is none other than the communist scourge of spiritual and demonic origin. Its light is that of false idealism which masquerades as true light (2Cor.11:14), but it is indeed a deception and a counterfeit. Because of its idealism, though deceptive, it is almost always the educated classes, the leaders of society, who first fall under its influence and succumb to its pro-

pagenda. This is why the star is seen falling upon the springs or fountains and upon the rivers which eventually reach the larger bodies of water. The masses of people are reached with the deceptive philosophy of communism only because the educated classes first embrace it in its propaganda phases. Once communist indoctrinated leaders gain control in a nation or among a people, the idealism, which was so prominant in their thinking during the initial contact with communism, begins to fade. Then the latent lust for power, subtly embedded in every unregenerated person, begins to raise its ugly head. Especially is this true among those who are taught, as the communists are, that there is no God. Without God, expediency and often unrestrained license replace truth and moral values. The result is Godless tyranny and ruthless suppression of freedom. Then it is that the 'wormwood' phase of the star is seen. Wormwood is a bitter plant that grows in the desert. The waters which become bitter represent the inevitable aftermath of a communist take-over. That which was presented as the ultimate in idealism and emancipation for the people becomes instead a bitter experience, as that which was promised does not materialize, and the lot of the people becomes even more desperate than ever. Truly it is bitterness in the waters, or souls of men.

In that 1/3 of the waters become wormwood, it is indicated that 1/3 of the population of the world will come fully under the communist scourge through the take-over of governments by leaders who are completely sold out to the communist conspiracy. Most other nations will also be affected by communism in its propagenda and revolutionary phases, but not completely taken over. Yet because of fear, almost all nations will seek an accommodation with communism in one way or another. And because of tremendous internal pressures, most nations will submit to coalition governments, with communists playing instrumental roles in the life of the nations and thus creating instability and continuous strife. The 'strife' phase is seen in the statement that many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter. Many men shall resist the communist take-over of their nations and shall die for their efforts. The 'great star' seen falling from heaven symbolizes the fact that communism is of supernatural origin. It emanates from the invisible realms of Satanic dominion and constitutes spiritual wickedness in heavenly places (Eph. 6:12). It is the result of Satanic influence and deception and it leads to ruthless suppression of freedom.

:12 - <u>The Fourth Trumpet</u>. Developments under the 1st Trumpet are to affect all the inhabitants of the earth with the unleashing of nuclear destruction. The 2nd Trumpet has its fulfillment on the leading nation in the earth. The 3rd Trumpet warns of the certain and complete overwhelming of the 1/3 of the in-

habitants of the earth by the power of communism. And another portion of the human race is affected by the blowing of the 4th Trumpet. The 4th angel has already sounded the initial blast and the stage is being set for the complete fulfillment in the days that are ahead on the continent of Europe. During the period of the 4th Trumpet's blowing, 1/3 of the sun, 1/3 of the moon and 1/3 of the stars are smitten so that a 1/3 part of each is darkened. It will be exceedingly dark when the forces unleashed by the 4th Trumpet take their toll. The sun is a symbol of Christianity and 1/3 of the sun being smitten indicates that the portion of the Christian world having its stronghold in Europe will be darkened as revolutionary forces rise up there to destroy the traditional forms of Christianity so long entrenched in the life of the people. None will escape the forces of darkness, neither Catholic nor Protestant bodies, as these forces rise up to put out the light of the sun and also to strike at the moon and the stars. It is not only the 'sun' which will be affected, but the moon and the stars will be darkened also. The moon gives the reflected light of the sun and so is here a type of the state, which reflects or gives support to the church. The stars are the leaders in both church and state who will feel the impact of these forces of darkness rising up against them. The church-state combination, entrenched in Europe for centuries, will be completely disrupted and the sun, moon and stars will be darkened to the extent that the church-state relationships, both Catholic and Protestant, will no longer be tolerated. Even the Vatican organization will be forced to flee to North America. Violent forces will rise up within the nations of Europe to completely overthrow the existing system of things, and the 'stars', those in high political or religious offices benefitting from the church-state relationships and who long have had favored positions in the existing systems, will be suddenly cast out of their privileged places. The 1/3 of the day being withdrawn and also 1/3 of the night means that the Lord is appointing one hour for a year and there shall be four years of extreme strife upon Europe. The 1/3 part of 12 hours is 4 hours and the day and night provide a double witness. The double witness into the night as well as the day indicates the extremity of the events amid the forces which are now arising to bring these things to pass.

:13 - After the 4th Trumpet has begun to sound, an angel flies through the midst of heaven, warning and proclaiming three woes to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the Trumpet blasts which three more angels are afterward to sound. The angel warns of the intensity of turmoil and conflict which is added with the blowing of each succeeding Trumpet. The intensity of the now developing world crises is a result of that which is being unleashed during the blowing of

the 5th Trumpet.

- REV. 9 -

(Trumpets 5 & 6)

:1-2 - The Fifth Trumpet. In the spring of 1965. the hosts of Satan began to swarm out of the pit where they have been confined, though this swarm was not the very beginning of increased demon population on earth. God has been limiting the activity of demons in the world lest man would be corrupted beyond measure, but now He is progressively loosing the forces of the pit in order that man may be tested in a way that has never happened before. We are now in the preparation for the final stages of God's plan for the climax of the ages, and He is making ready His heavenly army to contend with these forces of Satan which are to have free access to mankind, and that army will bring about the closing scenes of the ages-long battle which has been raging since the time of man's fall.

Although in times past, the number and activity of evil spirits has been limited to prevent God's plan and schedule from being subverted, now God is ready to allow the full number of Satan's legions to enter full reign upon the earth, in order to fill up the wickedness of this day. Much fear shall grip the inhabitants of the earth as they see the results of God's permitting the hosts of the nether world to come and prey upon the earth's inhabitants. The wickedness of man shall become great as he succumbs to the subtleties of the enemy, and great will be the perversions of truth and distortions of righteousness as these evil spirits make their impact upon an unsuspecting and unreadied mankind. Even now is the 5th Trumpet blowing and even now more and more evil spirits are being released from the pit. The numeral 5 is the number of liberty and freedom, and God is giving increased liberty to the forces of Satan for subverting the masses of the world so that God's plan shall reach its consummation in this time.

The star which had fallen from heaven to earth is Satan, the destroyer, Abaddon or Apollyon, (:11) who is a king over the invisible hosts of darkness and who is leading the evil spirits in their warfare. The pit is the place where most of the evil spirits, fallen angels, have been kept. These forces from the pit, the forces of Satan, rise as smoke to darken the sun and pollute the air, indicating that they will work through human agencies to corrupt the truth of Christianity (the sun) by all kinds of error and deceiving doctrine of demons in this day. This is now being fulfilled in the liberalism and modernism which has completely destroyed the true Gospel in vast segments of the so-called Christian populace. The pollution of the air is the contamination of peoples' thoughts with all kinds of filth and perversion. The forces of Satan are bringing great darkness upon the earth as they work to subvert the Chris-

tian message and work to pervert the thinking of people into ways of Godlessness and unbridled pleasure.

:3 - The creatures being released are likened to locusts, and locusts devastate everything in their path. The forces of Satan, like locusts, will bring a great scourge upon mankind until there is nothing left of material value. They are released gradually so their devastating will not develop more rapidly than is God's plan, and so that His purposes will not be precipitated too soon, but they will continue to be released throughout the 5th Trumpet's sounding. :4 - These forces from the unseen world are pictured not only as locusts, but they possess the sting of scorpions, and they are commanded not to hurt the grass, nor any green thing, nor any tree, and only trouble those men who do not have the seal of God in their foreheads (See comments on Rev.3:12). Note that there is a difference between being subverted by these evil spirits and being 'hurt' by them. The 'hurt' refers to actual physical harm or destruction which will come later (verse 10) as the spirits are given authority and the means to precipitate vast numbers of men into physical conflict. First there is a subversion during a period of time when the 'grass' and the 'trees', which are peoples of various classes, will not be 'hurt' or destroyed in great numbers (Ezek.17:24, IPet.1:24, Judges 9:7-15, Isa. 40:6-8, 44:4, 61:3, Lk.6:43). These people will not be immediately 'hurt', in their own thinking, because of inability to foresee the ultimate consequences of coming under the influence of the evil spirits; they will be a people deceived, believing a lie instead of the truth (2Thess.2:10-11). They will believe that the doctrines of demons, being taught through a perverted clergy in the perverted church systems, and the so-called new liberties which they are experiencing in godless pleasure-living are to their benefit and are a part of the glorious new way of life which man is achieving. The goal of the Satanic spirits is to enmesh the inhabitants of the world in delusion, in a sort of intoxication of pleasure-madness and libertine conduct which gives vent to perverted desires and ways. In the minds of the people, what they are experiencing is not a 'hurt' to them, but rather a new-found way of life. But what this delusion eventuates into brings about an abrupt end to the pleasure-mad ways, as symbolized by the scourge of the locust and the sting of the scorpion. However, the demons will not be able to touch those having the seal or nature of the living God in their minds (Lk.10:19), for God will protect His own so they will not be subverted by the devices of the enemy. Those not protected will be tormented as by a scorpion's sting, not because they love righteousness and deplore the wickedness coming over the earth, but because the condit-

ions of the world will become so desperate and critical that they will not be able to give full vent to their pleasure-seeking ways and to their covetous desires. They will want to escape, not from the wicked delusions of the times, but from the chaotic conditions which will be the inevitable result of unbridled license and lawless living.

The evil spirits shall 'hurt' certain men who do not have God's seal of protection, because these certain men are being prepared to precipitate the nations into war. These are men in high positions (trees) whose minds have been completely taken captive by the power of Satan and, through these men, the evil spirits shall eventually be able to hurt the masses (grass) through destructive warfare (verse 10). This prospect is evidenced by the evil spirits being seen both as locusts and as horses equipped for battle (verse 7). The locust was always one of the most terrible of the scourges afflicting nations of ancient times, bringing great devastation, and the horse has always been a symbol of the power to make war. Therefore, even though the evil spirits do not immediately 'hurt' the masses of the people, they bring them into the delusive intoxication of pleasure seeking. However, the masses will eventually feel the impact of the 'hurt' when it is precipitated by evil men in high places who are used by these same spirits to prepare the intoxicated people for slaughter.

:5-6 - The 'five months' for torment is not a period of literal months, but is a period of liberty or freedom of access to mankind. (5 is the number of liberty of access). Prior to the slaughter, conditions on earth will become so desperate that many people will seek escape through death, but, because of the fear that has gripped them, even death shall flee away from them. The torment inflicted by the scorpion's sting is primarily that of fear, a fear so great that men will even fear to take their own lives, though they will wish that they were dead. The fear will be a result of the chaotic conditions on the earth and the ugly specter of nuclear war then hanging heavily over the inhabitants of the earth. A double picture is shown here. The seeking of death is also symbolic of their desire to escape these things, yet being unable to do so, for death does not always mean a cessation of physical life, but rather an escape to a realm where the torments of life cannot reach. Therefore, it is shown that many will try to escape in this day from the tormenting effects of the activity of the evil spirits, but shall not be able to find a place of hiding, for all the earth shall feel the impact of the loosing of the Satanic hordes.

None will escape the impact of the onslaught of these evil spirits; none will be able to stand without God's help. Only those who have learned to look to Jesus and trust in Him and who habitually spend much time

seeking His face and studying His Word will be able to receive that help. He can uphold any man only insofar as that man will trust Him to do so and only as that man reaches out to receive His strength. These are fearful times, and only those who continue to look to Jesus Christ will be able to keep themselves from falling into the morass of wickedness and ungodliness which will engulf all mankind.

The evil hordes will whip up the masses of the pagan lands into an orgy of bloodshed unprecedented in human history, for great will be the slaughter in human lives as the masses rise up to clamor for their rights and seek to take things in their own hands. Frenzied mobs will rule many lands and cause all who oppose them to be killed. Many will perish in riots and revolutions as men seek to demand what has been withheld from them, for none shall be able to stop the surge of the masses as they rise up in this day. Great fear will grip the hearts of the people as they see chaos and ruin sweep across many lands.

Evil spirits will prey on every human weakness and bring out every base instinct in human nature. The lust and greed of man shall reach a level never seen before. Perversion shall be great in the earth as the spirits of the nether world torment men with unholy desires and cravings and as they prod them into avarice and grasping and as they stir their emotions to fever pitch with envy, hatred, malice and every other sinister feeling.

The blowing of the 5th Trumpet brings such a spirit of unrest in the earth as multitudes are tormented by every unholy desire and craving, and the resultant chaos will drive men to seek alliances with some kind of all-powerful government which will be able to keep order and peace in the earth. In this way, the groundwork will be laid for an all-powerful government to emerge which will promise peace and security to all nations coming under its domination. Thus shall the beast powers of Rev.13 emerge to control the inhabitants of the earth and to make them give allegiance to the god of materialistic force (Dan.11:38). Two beasts shall arise. The first has already had its <u>inception</u> in the communist combine of nations. The second is to emerge as a coalition of communist and non-communist nations which will seek to force a world socialist rule upon all other nations, enforced by a world police organization. They will try to make all men worship and bow down to that image which they will create, world socialism, which truly is the image of the first beast. Taking advantage of the chaos of the times, the 2nd beast rises to clamp a world socialist dictatorship upon the nations of the world shortly before the Great Tribulation starts, holding out to them the image of a planned order and economy which will provide peace and plenty for all. Due to the desperation of the times, the people will be ready to receive the promise of utopia

and will receive the mark of the beast in the foreheads and hands, giving mental assent to its image or idealism, believing a lie instead of the truth, and will be forced to work for its realization by giving the power of their hand to it. After it is too late, the nations shall find that they have surrendered their rights and freedom for an illusion, but they will be hopelessly trapped in a web of their own making. They will be unable to extricate themselves for the beast powers will have the means of enforcing their rule over all. The rule of absolute dictatorship will control people through work credits and statistical allocation of daily basic needs; no more pleasure seeking, no more satisfaction of desires.

:7 - After the men in high places are thoroughly prepared by their subverted ambitions for world conquest, then comes the war aspect (the horse) and great destruction, then they are 'crowned' to go forth into battle. The 'faces' of the locusts are the faces of men, the very men who have been prepared to 'hurt' the people of the world by their mad conquest for power. :8 - The locusts which had the faces of men also had the hair of women and the teeth of lions. The hair indicates their complete captivity to their desires (evil). Esau means hairy and he was captive to his evil desires; 'Devil' also means hairy; Samson, while his hair was uncut, was captive of good desires). The term 'woman' is used to symbolize the soul, which is the seat of desire. The locust's having the 'teeth of lions' indicates their absolute determination to gnash and devour, until they have completely conquered the world.

:9 - The 'breastplates of iron' show that they will persevere to the end, and not be turned back from their destructive designs. The 'sound of their wings like a roar of the chariots of many horses running to battle' indicates that they will engulf the world in destructive slaughter. The evil spirits shall do this through those men who have not the seal of God on their foreheads, but whose minds are completely taken captive by Satanic devices.
:10 - The locust's 'tail' indicates lies and deception (Isa. 9:15). It is after the horses are prepared for battle that the 'locusts' are permitted to 'hurt' men for 5 months, where previously they were permitted to 'torment' for 5 months (verse 5). The 'torment' of verse 5 is primarily fear of what might come, but the 'hurt' of verse 10 is actual destruction in warfare. The 5 months in each verse are not literal months, but symbolic of the freedom of action allowed the evil spirits to subvert and lead to eventual conflict. Once the conflict (hurting of men) has started on a global scale, halfway through the Great Tribulation, it will not let up until the consummation of all things and the return of the Lord in power and glory.

:11 - The king over the invisible hosts of darkness, which

are given freedom to attack the inhabitants of the earth, is called Abaddon, meaning destruction, and he is Satan who is leading the evil spirits in their war of destruction and devastation. :12 - The announcement that 'the first woe is passed' does not mean that the events seen within the 5th Trumpet's blowing have completely run their course, but it means that the forces released by the Trumpet's sounding are then past recall. What is then set in motion is as good as accomplished, the results are inevitable. Along with the two woes yet to come, the 5th Trumpet (the 1st woe) continues to mount in intensity until the end of the Age.

Already the agents of the pit are beginning to multiply on the earth and the die is cast for the inhabitants of earth. None shall be able to stay the hand of the Almighty, until the foment of evil has run its course and the fester of iniquity has finished its work. Many months pass while the forces of the nether world are carrying out their tormenting activities, but during these same months God shall move by His Spirit to bring a revival and deliverance in the earth for those who hunger for Him. A mighty spiritual power will be evident in the earth as His specially prepared servants go forth to confront the enemy with the power of their God. While the earth is seething with unrest under the tormenting influence of Satan's hordes, those men who turn to God shall find a great deliverance and a mighty victory in that day. Then shall come deliverance from on high as the hosts of the Almighty come to put down the forces of Satan and cast them into the bottomless pit from whence they came. Therefore, rejoice that you can know the truth which will set you free from all fear and which will give you great confidence and assurance for the days that lie ahead. Do not fret because of what has been revealed, for Yahweh-Jesus is with you to keep you and to protect you from all harm.

:13 - <u>The 6th Trumpet</u> began to blow June 6, 1967, during the 5 day Israeli war, and the events under the 6th Trumpet are now developing. Russia has moved into the Mediterranean and has entered concentrated negotiation with the Euphrates area nations. :14-15 - The 6th angel, who had the 6th Trumpet, was instructed to loose the 4 angels bound in the great river Euphrates. The 4 angels here are the spirit princes (leaders) who are the unseen rulers of 4 nations in the general area of the Euphrates River. Let's look at one possibility. Four such nations were bound together by the Bagdad Pact, in an attempt to create a buffer against the encroachments of communism. But soon that buffer will be dissolved or loosed and those nations will then no longer seek to contain or hold back communist subversion and advance. They will instead eventually become a part of the communist combine, and one or more will actually

be a part of the 'horns' of the beast of Rev.13. Although there may yet be four others, these nations were Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Pakistan. Thus the influence of the Christian west, which was instrumental in causing these nations to be bound together in an anti-communist pact, will be destroyed in that area. This is one meaning of the statement that the 4 angels were liberated to destroy 1/3 part of men. The destroying here is not literal, but is symbolic of the complete elimination of the power of the two western Christian nations to keep the treaty intact, the two being 1/3 of the specific nations involved. The elimination of the 1/3 will pave the way for a communist take-over. It would take an hour and a day and a month and a year (close to 13 months) after the breaking of the pact (the loosing of the 4 angels) for western influence to be destroyed and the 4 nations to be absorbed into the communist camp, which is the beast empire. These two Christian nations are the equivalent of the picture of Isaac, who was 1/3 of the house of Abraham - the other 2/3 being the descendants of Ismael, son of Hagar the Egyptian, and the descendants of the sons of Keturah (Gen.16:1-12, 25:1-6).

:16 - Immediately following this, there is a description of the army which is also prepared to be loosed into great destruction. This is that army which will overflow, just as the Euphrates River typically overflows at flood stage (Isa.8:6-8, Jer.47:2). The number of horses (symbolizing the power to make war) and men, 10,000 times 10,000 is symbolic of the entire force of the communist empire in its quest to overrun western influence in the Middle East and to bring that entire area, including Palestine, under the banner of the hammer and sickle. The 10,000 times 10,000 is a multiplied witness indicating intensity of fulfillment. The 10 symbolizes world power, soul power, and the '000' pictures the completion of the spirit's purpose. Having largely gained dominion in this area, the mighty hosts of the communist world will be emboldened to press further into other areas, and other nations will be overrun by these hordes, a symbolic spilling over the banks of the Euphrates.

:17-18 - The vision was one of an army of horses and riders, and the horses had heads of lions. First the power of propaganda and lies will be used to overcome the nations of the Middle-East and then it is followed by military action and destruction which is pictured by the fire, smoke and brimstone of the modern war machines and their fire-power. Initially, there are promises of peace and plenty, but that which begins as lying propaganda and which destroys the Christian influence in the Middle-East will be followed by the military aggression of armies marching forth to destroy. Even the breastplates of the riders, seen as fiery red and sapphire blue and sulpher yellow, indicate the de-

termination and destructive intent of those who are ready to plunge the world into chaos to gain their diabolical ends. These are Satan's colors, and 'lion' and 'serpent' are titles of Satan (IPet.5:8, Rev.12:9). :19 - Just as the power of the 'horses' is in their mouths and in their tails, even as serpents (lying demons), so it is shown that there is both the determination and the power to poison by propaganda (Isa.9:15) and then to put to death (serpent's heads) those who stand in the way of their plan to exterminate the influence of Christianity from the face of the earth. Even after much destruction has been wrought in the earth by these forces, the people do not repent of the works of their own hands, their idolatries and their wicked ways. Judgments alone will not turn people to their God, but the coupling of judgments with a mighty moving of His Spirit will turn many to righteousness and a great Harvest will be brought forth to God.

The blowing of the 6 Trumpets present a dark picture, for they deal primarily with the outer conditions of the world which has turned its back on God, and which brings judgment on itself, but there is another picture in Scripture which outdoes the darkness. The Lord will arise and shine on His people, and that great glory shall be seen upon them (Isa.60:1-2). The shining shall be in the midst of the gross darkness, but the light of the glory of the Lord in His people shall be far greater than the darkness. During the dark days ahead there shall be exceeding great light for those willing to believe and receive the grace and glory of their God. The darkness in which no man could work effectively (300-1500 A.D.) has already passed (John 9:4), and now a <u>new day</u> is dawning. The greatest work of harvesting into the Kingdom that the world has ever seen will be done even in the midst of the world's darkest hour. Do not think that Pentecost has past! There is yet to be an outpouring of the Holy Spirit far beyond anything the world has seen. It takes the 'latter rain' to bring the growing 'grain' into maturity so it can be reaped. This exceedingly great outpouring will take place at the blowing of the 7th Trumpet, a preparatory work is being done, even now as the other six Trumpets are sounding.

It is the Lord's purpose to deliver His people from the oppression of the enemy (Satan and his hosts), just as was pictured in the release of Israel from the Pharaoh of Egypt. And He has prepared vessels which will be used to lead His people in the days ahead, just as Moses and Aaron as types were used in the days of Egyptian bondage. The events and people of that day were a foreshadowing and a type of the final fulfilling of the plan of God which will shortly bring a release from Satan's bondage of all who trust in Jesus Christ. The time has come for the people to know the meaning of the plagues upon the land of Egypt when the

Lord delivered His people with an outstretched arm and with fury poured forth.

First, Moses and Aaron showed signs from the Lord to all the people of Israel (Ex. 4:30-31) and then Moses and Aaron appeared before Pharaoh and demanded that God's people go free, but Pharaoh hardened his heart and refused. It was not until Moses and Aaron were able to demonstrate divine power to him that Pharaoh was moved to relent, but even then he hardened his heart again and again to hinder God's purpose. Egypt is a symbol of the world; Pharaoh, king of Egypt, is a symbol of Satan; Israel God's people, is a symbol for the Body of Christ, the true Church which is also Spiritual Israel (Gal.3:29). Moses and Aaron are types of those who will be used to lead God's people in these last days. Pharaoh's hindering actions picture the activity of Satan in this end-time. Knowing his time is short, he is working with all his might to keep people in bondage and is reluctant to give any ground to those who would challenge his hold. Therefore God has determined to raise up those like Moses and Aaron, who will be empowered by the Holy Spirit, to demand the release of the captives and <u>see</u> them go free. The Lord will move mightily in this day to liberate his people so they might worship Him 3 days in the wilderness (Ex.5:1-3). The 3 days are a type of the 3½ years of coming Great Tribulation in which a great host of dedicated Christians will be liberated into a realm of the Spirit that they have not known before and in their new-found freedom they will truly worship God in Spirit and in truth. They will do so in the wilderness of the Tribulation period when the wrath of Satan will be mounting in fury as he seeks to keep the people in bondage. This will be during that time of great testing which is to come on the earth to try every man (Rev.3:10).

Just as the nation of Israel prefigured the many nations and Jesus Christ prefigured the many membered Body of Christ, so also do Moses and Aaron prefigure specific groups of people in the end-time. They were appointed to work together in the power of the Spirit to bring forth a mighty deliverance. Moses was the younger of the two brothers and Aaron was the elder, but Moses was the leader of the two. Since Aaron was the older, he is a type of that which comes earlier in time, and then Moses follows afterward (Ex.7:7). The same picture is presented in Rev.12, where two groups are shown. There the 'woman' or earlier company, represents the glorious Church which God is raising up to minister in power during the Tribulation. But before she fully begins her ministry in power, a 'male child' is born out of her to be quickly caught up to the throne of God (Rev.12:4-5). The 'male child' being the younger, is the latter day Moses company which will come forth in deathless life as the manifested sons of God. The 'woman' or the glorious Church,

is the latter day Aaron company. The two groups, while still on the earth-plane, will work together to deliver God's people, using the 'rod' to demonstrate their divine power, and the 'rod' is the Word of God spoken with power and authority by those whom the Lord will commission and that Word will be confirmed by mighty signs and wonders. Though Aaron was the older of the two, Moses was the leader (Ex.4:16, 7:1). It is written that the Lord's two witnesses will have the power to do signs and wonders and to smite the earth with plagues (Rev.11:6). The truth of the Rev.11:3 two witnesses has more than one application and fulfillment, but in this context the two witnesses also are typified by Moses and Aaron in the day of Egypt, as the manifiested sons and the glorious Church in the latter days. And they shall be empowered to cause plagues to come on the earth as a result of their ministry (Rev.11:6), just as Moses and Aaron did.

There were 10 plagues on Egypt to effect the release of the Israelites and each of these is a preview of a complete fulfillment in the end-time. Although there is a measure of chronological sequence in the end-time fulfilling of the 10 plagues, there is also much overlapping and even concurrent fulfillment in some of them. There are two perspectives in viewing their end-time fulfillment, the over-all end-time period and the short-term intense time of fulfillments. From the perspective of the over-all time, the first 6 plagues have a measure of fulfillment already in progress, beginning with modern day bloodletting through revolution. From the perspective of the short-term intense fulfillment, the first 3 plagues begin with some intensity just prior to the Great Tribulation period. From both perspectives, all 10 plagues have their most intense fulfillment during the Great Tribulation, the last 4 occuring <u>only</u> during that $3\frac{1}{2}$ period and running somewhat concurrently though not completely so.

<u>#1 Plague</u>, Water (Ex.7:19-25). Moses and Aaron were given authority to turn the water of Egypt into blood. Water is a type of the human soul with its emotions and feelings and blood is the result of humans killing each other when emotions get beyond control. In this day human emotions (water) will be so aroused with passions and desires that much blood will be shed. The trouble will rise from several influences but in relation to the chosen servants, it will be in reaction against the authority of the rod, the power of God's Word spoken against the godless and licentious living that will abound among the multitudes. The Word preached in power in the days ahead will bring great division among the people, because so many are being taken captive by doctrines of demons and because the spirit of libertine conduct is spreading into all segments of society. Even the church world is losing its

moorings, believing less and less of the inspired Word and taking on more and more of the reasonings of man, based on pseudo-science. People generally will be lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God (2Tim.3:1-4). Compromises of all kinds will be the order of the day and the 'water' of human emotions and desires will run rampant.

Suddenly in the midst of this moving away from truth and righteousness, a people will rise up to speak with the authority of their God, and they will wield a rod of truth which will startle and anger the multitudes. Many will hear and be converted, but most will react against those preaching a strict code of righteousness and will denounce them as the reactionaries. Then the Lord will move to bring judgment, for His Word cannot be thwarted. The Word spoken in that day by His servants will be a creative Word, for the very speaking of it shall bring it to pass. The multitudes who refuse to hear will receive the judgment of that spoken Word and the very speaking of that Word of judgment will inevitably turn the waters into blood. Those who refuse the truth confirmed by many signs will be turned over to the delusion of their perverted sense of knowledge, and they will become the victims of the instability of their rampant desire-natures, whipped to frenzy point by countless hosts of the nether world that are being released to try all men at this end-time.

Because of this Satanic control and influence, giving rise to the conflicting interests of people pursuing perverted desires at fever pitch, intense strife will develop over all major issues of the day. Instead of using the due processes of law and order, people generally will be moved to take matters in their own hands, applying means of intimidation and violence instead of reason. The 'water' of soulish desires and emotions will gain complete control of people and the resulting intense conflict and violence will bring on much bloodshed, the turning of water into blood. Conflicts will arise over race, religion, employment, wages, working conditions, social mores, wealth distribution, education, government, foreign policy, communism, socialism, medicine, health, the press, thought control, and many other issues. These will keep the general condition of society in such a tumultous and fluid state that demonstrations, riots, boycotts, strikes, pressures, intimidations and other forms of emotional outbursts will be the order of the day, resulting in constant bloodletting. This will be the judgment of the rod, the Word of God, upon a people who have refused to hear the truth. Left to the instability of their demon-crazed ways, they become the victims of violence and blood.

The 'fish' in the water are a type of emotions and feelings. Only as man is regenerated can he gain dominion and control over his emotions and feelings. The

picture of the fish dying in the waters turned to blood indicates the control and influence of Satan over the people expressed emotions. The magicians do deal with the emotional outbursts in part and in measure by employing the enchantments of psychology, psychiatry, drugs, mental health, pacification, wonder drugs, shock treatments, social therapy and clinics. By these measures they are able to help maintain a measure of immunization against the effects of the plague (2Tim.3:8).

But the result of the 1st Plague was simply to harden the heart of Pharaoh. Pharaoh is a type of Satan, and it is shown here how chaos of the times will enable him to harden his control over people by increasing dictatorial powers placed in the hands of those who are working for absolute supremacy of the beast governments.

#2 Plague Frogs (Ex.8:1-15). When Pharaoh refused to let the people of Israel go free, Moses and Aaron were commanded to lift the rod over the same waters that had been turned to blood. Thus we are viewing the result of the same condition of emotional instability in those who have been turned over to the delusions of their sense-knowledge and obsessed with Satanic spirits. As a result, frogs came up out of the waters and covered the land of Egypt, entering the houses of all the people. This is a symbolic portrayal of the 2nd Plague of judgment which is to come upon the inhabitants of the earth in the end-time. Because of the instability of the times and the susceptibility of the people to all kinds of emotional onslaughts, there shall come forth all kinds of 'isms', teachings, cults, pseudo-religious movements, quasi-front groups subtly promoting extremist positions and causes of all kinds, opportunists and quacks, subversives with their blatant propaganda, government protagonists in autocratic rule, science deifyers and atheistic and agnostic huckters of all kinds of libertine thought and conduct. These are the 'frogs' with their croaking doctrines of demons (Rev.16:13-14), preying upon every segment of society, invading the houses and even bed-chambers and beds of rulers, people and servants.

Indicating what will take place in the end-time judgments, because of this plague, Pharaoh relents momentarily, giving permission to the people to go and sacrifice to their God (Ex.8:8). in the midst of all the croaking of frogs, a certain segment of people will begin to turn in earnest to their God, causing Satan to lose his grip of many. Then Pharaoh hardening his heart again indicates Satan's attempt to counter God's move by strengthening his hold on the majority of the people and also by instigating persecution against those who are turning to righteousness. The picture of the frogs dying out of the houses, out of the villages, and out of the fields indicates there are 3 groups which will enter into the ways of truth, turning from the ways of deceit and godless living (Ex.8:13). The houses represent

the 100-fold Christians, the villages the 60-fold Christians and the open fields the 30-fold Christians (Mk.4:20, 28). The degree of their turning away from unrighteousness and error and the extent to which they enter into the truth and believing of Christ, will determine their grouping. From the open field of the 30-fold they can progress to the village of the 60-fold and finally into the house of the 100-fold. Each step brings a more intimate contact and association with the living Christ, to become His household (Eph.2:19). As in the 1st Plague, the 'magicians' do deal with the 'waters', in part and in measure, to help depress some of the multitudinous croaking of conflicting interest.

#3 Plague, Lice (Ex.8:16-19). Suddenly and without warning a 3rd Plague came upon Egypt. Aaron stretched forth his rod and struck the dust of the earth and out of the dust came lice, biting gnats or mosquitoes upon every man and every beast. In this end-time these are mysterious diseases and afflictions which will come upon the inhabitants of the earth because of their lawless and godless ways (Lk.21:11). Again it is the stretching forth of the rod, the preaching of the Word of truth, which is shunned and rejected that causes judgment to fall. Doctors will not be able to cope with the situation as unprecedented maladies attack both men and animals; this is the end-time fulfillment of the wise men of Egypt trying to bring forth lice and being unable to do so. None of the serums developed in that time will be effective.

Many physicians will frankly admit the need for turning to God for an answer, even as the magicians of Egypt said, 'This is the finger of God' (Ex.8:19). During the two preceding Plagues the 'enchantments' were in some measure successful in dealing with the emotional violence that leads to bloodshed and in dealing with the many croakings of conflicting interest, but when the 3rd Plague strikes with increasing ferocity and multitudes of humans and animals are affected by diverse maladies, the wise men will soon learn that their methods of treatment are not getting results. Many will say 'only God can intervene and save much life from perishing.'

In the overall end-time perspective, these three Plagues (and the following three) have some measure of fulfillment already, but the short-term end-time fulfillment of the first three is yet to begin with intensity just prior to the Great Tribulation. In the short-term end-time application, the 4th Plague begins concurrently with the start of the Great Tribulation and with the taking up of the 144,000 firstfruits group (Rev.14:1).

#4 Plague, Gadflies (Ex.8:20-32). The 4th Plague has a particular importance, because the land of Goshen, where the Israelites were living, was separated in order that they might receive protection.

Likewise at the end of the Church Age, the Lord will protect from the effects of this Plague all those who put their complete trust in Him (Jer.17:7-8). This Plague did not come as a result of Aaron lifting up the rod, it came as an immediate providential judgment and as a sign to Pharaoh and the Egyptians of the supremacy of the living God (Ex.8:22-23). In this last day, the Lord will demonstrate His being-in-charge of the affairs of the earth and all mankind. The judgment will not come primarily as a result of peoples'refusal to hear the Word of truth, but it will come to vindicate the Name of Jesus Christ. The judgment will be part of His strategy to bring His people to their knees and to speed up the work of the Holy Spirit in a people of His choosing.

Just before the 4th Plague falls, there will be a two-fold dividing. First a 144,000 group of the most choice saints will be separated and suddenly removed from the physical realm into the spiritual or heavenly realm, their physical bodies being suddenly translated into glorified bodies. The removal of this 144,000 firstfruits group (Rev.14:1) will then trigger a further division. Those people remaining on earth who are truly the Lord's will immediately recognize the significance of what has taken place and without hesitation shall turn to the Lord with their whole heart to seek Him as never before. After a short time of earnest petition, the Holy Spirit shall be poured out in a mighty deluge of power (Joel 2:28). These stunning spiritual developments will divide those who truly mean business with the Lord from those who are mere professors. Truly all-out Christians will be clearly demarcated from those who make a pretense with a form of godliness (2Tim.3:5). The separated land of Goshen thus becomes a type of those who have completely renounced Lucifer's kingdom (Egypt is a type of the world under the prince of darkness) and have been regenerated into the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. The separated all-out Christians will then have complete protection from the effects of all succeeding Plagues, for the 144,000 group of glorified saints in a supernatural ministry will be on constant duty with power to appear and speak words of guidance and give help.

Immediately after the 'dividing', the 4th Plague comes as it did on Egypt. The Plague is the aftermath of the judgmental division that has taken place by the power of the Spirit. The Plague cannot be separated from the 'dividing', for it is one judgment. Those all-out Christians who are in the symbolic land of Goshen are not affected by the aftermath because they will have entered into the reality and assurance of the Holy Spirit. They shall know where they stand and what the future holds for them, but the people who are still a part of Lucifer's

kingdom im the spirit of Egypt's land will be in a state of utter confusion. They will seek answers, but will have none. Yet they will still be too much in love with the world and the things of the world to turn from their unrighteous ways.

The gadflies of the 4th Plague in Egypt were terribly annoying, but not actually destructive. They entered the Egyptian's houses until they were full of them. In the end-time the house symbolizes an intimate relationship, and the gadflies are a type of torments, fears, uncertainties, resentments and inward disturbances in those people who will have become aware of the mighty 'division'. The torments are a direct result of the strategic removal of the firstfruits group, but people remain too willfully carnal to change their ways.

Though not wanting to abandon their worldy ways, large numbers will become increasingly interested and concerned about spiritual things, - fearing for their own safety and future. This is the picture of Pharaoh again seeming to relent (Ex.8:25) and giving permission to the Hebrews to sacrifice to their God. However, note that Pharaoh specified sacrifice in the land of Egypt rather than in the wilderness, picturing a compromise-Christianity which many will want. The acceptable sacrifice must include the 'Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world' (Rev.13:8), but the Egyptians in the land would not permit the sacrifice of sheep, which is the abomination of the Egyptians in the Lord's view (Ex.8:26) because they worshipped these animals, as well as other gods. As Moses stood firm on this point, so also God's true servants in this day will not agree to any compromise form of Christianity which eliminates the necessity of the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ as God's Lamb. Because of their uncompromising position, the true servants of God must take the 3 day journey into the wilderness (Ex.8:27). Again, the 3 days picture in a round number the $3\frac{1}{2}$ years of Great Tribulation which is coming upon the earth (Ezek.4:6). There will be much tribulation before, but the $3\frac{1}{2}$ years will be the most intense part. The 'wilderness' is a type of the testing through persecution which will be the lot of all who remain true to their God, unwilling to compromise with the 'Egyptians' of this world. Pharaoh again relents slightly saying 'sacrifice in the wilderness, but don't go very far' (Ex.8:28), picturing the continuing attempts to get Christians to compromise. Then Pharaoh hardened his heart again (Ex.8:32). After the initial shock of realization that the 144,000 group has been taken begins to subside and the torments and fears are somewhat allayed, the worldly will become more confirmed in their ways, a hardening of Pharaoh's heart.

#5 Plague, Animal Plague (Ex.9:1-7). This Plague, a

result of Pharaoh's refusal, is not directly on man but on his 'animals'. In the days of the Exodus, a man's land and his animals were the essence of his wealth and the loss of the livestock of Egypt was a crippling blow to that economy. Men were dependant upon animals, not only for food, but for most basic work needs and for commerce and transportation. This is symbolic of what shall come upon the nations in this end-time. The monetary wealth of all nations will largely be destroyed through the collapse of the Babylonian system of finance, which has a stranglehold on most nations. Its debt and interest practices will cause a continuing spiral in prices and wages. When wages have reaced a level where further increases must be denied, inflation will continue to eat away buying power until it will take most of what the average person makes to provide the basic necessities of life. The eventual weight of debt and interest will become so great as to collapse the entire system. Money (which most people consider to be wealth today) will be practically worthless, savings and investments will mean nothing, control and rationing will be absolutely necessary, freedom to buy and sell will be almost wiped out and government control of everything will become mandatory for survival. People's lives will be regulated through tabulated work credits and assigned consumer allotments. Money will be replaced by a computerized numbers system which will tabulate each family's work contribution (credits) and the assignment of goods and services needed and provided (debits). Credits will be granted, based on work contribution and family need. Distribution will be on the basis of 'need' and the need will be determined by statistical factors obtained from each family. Special requisition papers will be necessary for purchases other than daily needs. All business will be controlled by the government and any organization which refuses to comply with all the regulations will not be able to buy raw materials or sell its products (Rev.13:17). No business will be permitted to sell to customers as is now done. These extreme measures will be required because of the critical world situation, but the basic framework of a controlled society will be the result of years of previous planning and scheming by an intellectual caste which dominates the thinking of the higher echelons of government personnel.

The Plague was on the Egyptian animals or wealth, but not on the Israelites' (Ex.9:4-6). The true wealth of a 'born again' child of God is spiritual, he is rich in Christ (2Cor.8:9, Rev.2:9) and the failure of man and his systems cannot take away his treasures laid up in heaven (Matt. 6:19-21). The reality of God's presence and power among His people in this end-time will be so great that they will not be greatly affected by the wiping out of

accumulated monetary wealth. Their joy, affection and hope will be so centered on Jesus Christ, and His glory will be so great upon them, that they will take little interest in the strictly material things. Whatever temporary inconvenience they suffer will be more than made up by the exceeding great spiritual wealth which will be theirs at that time, for they will have begun to press into their full inheritance, those Kingdom blessings and powers prepared for them from the foundation of the world.

There is also a correlation between the destruction of the animals of Egypt and economic controls depriving man of exercise of his basic drives toward acquisition and gain. 'Animals' are a type of basic tendencies, habitual inclinations and drives in carnal human nature. 'Birds of the air' are a type of thoughts of the mind (a carnal mind is under Satan's rule - Lk.8:12, Jer.5:27). 'Fish of the sea' are a type of emotions and feelings, and 'Beasts' are a type of native talents, animalistic drives and carnal avarice (Gen.1:26-28). It is this inner world of human nature over which man has failed to gain dominion that is causing all the chaotic conditions among peoples and nations. The mania of those who are working for a controlled society is based upon the false notion that man can be reformed, if he is deprived of the opportunity to exercise and give vent to mental, emotional and volitional tendencies which corrupt society. Since man will not control himself, he must be controlled in every way of life and must be gradually immunized to his former corrupt self. Therefore, there must be an all-powerful government by self-appointed guardians of the masses. Who is to control and immunize the guardians is problematical. Such is the bankrupt thinking of men who have turned from God to the delusions of their own ways.

Men's outer world can abound in goodness and peace only as man's inner world of thoughts, emotions and drives are <u>completely</u> subdued and channeled into the glory of his God. The problem is spiritual, not economic, not political, nor social. Only as man is regenerated within can he gain dominion over 'birds of the air, the fish of the sea and the beasts of the earth' within his own microcosm. This is man's first and primary task which was set before him at the very beginning. God's concern was not with man's gaining dominion over the outer world. Gen.1:26-28 was but an allegory to portray the inner world of man's being and the necessity of gaining dominion over every thought, emotion, desire, ability, propensity, and drive until <u>all</u> resources and forces within reflect the beauty and glory of God above. Gaining dominion over the outer world was secondary and is contingent upon gaining dominion over the inner, and

those who have gained a commendable measure of dominion over their inner being through applying the grace and power of their God will be given an inheritance and authority over the outer world or the earth and all its inhabitants, being commissioned to rule and reign with Christ. However, they cannot rule with Christ over the outer world until they have gained dominion over the inner realm of their own mind and heart.

#6 Plague, Boils (Ex.9:8-12). After Pharaoh's heart was hardened again, refusing to let the people go, a 6th Plague became necessary. Moses was commanded to sprinkle ashes from the furnace into the air, in the presence of Pharaoh. Then open sores broke out on both man and beast. Satan (Pharaoh) is the prince of the powers of the air (Eph.2:2) and this Plague signifies the power of Satan to cause men to unleash destructive fire of nuclear energy which pollutes the the air. The residue of the burning by fire (ashes) was sprinkled in the air, symbolically polluting it, and the resultant breaking out of open sores on man and beast pictures the affects of residual radiation emitted from the waste products of fiery nuclear explosions. By the time this Plague begins to fall, men will have begun the increasing use of tactical atomic weapons in mounting warfare (probably some even in brush-fire wars prior to the Great Tribulation). Use of these weapons will result in increasing pollution of the air and in radiation damage to all living flesh, - all except those especially protected by the mighty power of their God. Those all-out Christians in the protected 'Land of Goshen' will not feel the 'burning power' of a radiation-contaminated atmosphere.

The effect of this Plague was to further harden the heart of Pharaoh. Even the frightening prospect of radio-active pollution will not turn the nations from the mad pursuit of their own ends and in time, the nations will be engaged in the final battle of the ages, symbolically named 'Armageddon' (Rev.16:14-16). The Plagues which follow will unfold very rapidly as the tempo of conflict increases. The magicians of Egypt could not stand before Moses, because they, too, were afflicted. So also, the'wisemen' of the end-time will not be able to controvert the fact that there are those symbolized by Moses who are not being affected by the radiation Plague, having a built-in immunity. In that day the Moses-company will be the manifested sons who are no longer subject to death. All other Christians who place their complete trust in the Lord will also be protected, but they will not be naturally immune.

In the over-all end-time period, each of the foregoing six Plagues has some measure of fulfillment currently and prior to the Great Tribulation, although they continue into the Tribulation period with increas-

ing intensity. Therefore we should expect to see continued blood-letting, the results of emotional instability, outbreaks of unfamiliar maladies, fears and torments, national financial crises and the application of atomic weaponry whenever 'justified'. In the short-term end-time view the first three Plagues begin in intensity just prior to the Great Tribulation period and then build up in intensity. Then the #4 Plague begins at the outset of that period and #5 and #6 start up in some intensity soon thereafter. From both points of view, the final four Plagues are in effect only during the Great Tribulation period, running somewhat concurrently, although not completely so.

#7 Plague, Hail (Ex.9:13-35) Moses declares to Pharaoh the rapidity with which events will now take place and the stepped up tempo of judgment, saying 'this time I will send all My Plagues' (Ex. 9:14). There followed a great storm bringing thunder, lightning and a very heavy and dreadful hail such as had not been seen since the founding of Egypt (Ex. 9:18, 23-24, Rev.8:7, 16:21). The storm is symbolic of the world-wide 'storm' of conflict which will be gathering momentum in the earth. Increased use of nuclear weapons will vaporize large amounts of water which will ascend to the cold upper atmosphere and be frozen into large hail. When too heavy to be supported by the strong winds, the hail will fall upon earth and cause much destruction, but those in the land of 'Goshen' are shielded from the hail, for the Lord will protect those who put their full trust in Him (Ex.9: 26). Even among the 'Egyptians' there is a measure of protection for those who heed the Word of the Lord (Ex.9:19-20) showing that as the end-time conflict intensifies more and more, people of the world will begin to listen to the Word being preached by chosen servants and will begin to look to the Lord for protection. He promises to faithfully keep them to the measure of their trust and obedience. At times His chosen servants will warn of severe destruction coming upon certain places and certain cities, and those that heed His Word and do what He tells them shall be preserved.

The storm was said to be more severe than any since Egypt was founded (Ex.9:18). Since Egypt is a type of the world, the statement becomes synonymous with the prophecy of Jesus, 'then shall be great tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be' (Matt.24:21). Therefore, the period of Great Tribulation will have begun by the time this Plague begins to be fulfilled. Like a storm, it will begin gradually and increase in intensity as the tribulation period progresses. The destruction of the Plague on man, beast and vegetation (Ex.9:22) will not only be from the literal hail which will fall to cause much damage, but it also will be the loss of much life as a

result of the intensified conflict which the Plague typifies.

Because of the timing of the Plague 'the flax and the barley were smitten, for the barley was in ear and the flax in bloom, but the wheat and spelt (rie in some translations) were not smitten for they ripen late and were not grown up yet' (Ex.9:31-32). Here are indicated the progressive stages of the 'harvest' during the Great Tribulation period. Barley is the first grain to mature in the spring and is a type of the firstfruits of the Lord's harvest, those who enter more fully into His purposes and come to spiritual maturity before the rest. The flax just beginning to bloom indicates that these firstfruits will have the 'fruit of righteousness' (Phil.1:11, Heb.12:11) fulfilled in them in preparation for the marriage supper of the Lamb, for linen if made from flax and fine linen is the righteousness of the saints (Rev.19:8). These 'barley' and 'flax' firstfruits are those who have begun to ripen before the Tribulation period begins, a group <u>out of which</u> a sheaf is taken (Lev.23:10) and glorified (described in the 4th Plague). The other 'barley' and 'flax' Christians are the remnant portion of the firstfruits (Lev.23:16, Rev.12:17) and these are pictured as being smitten because the advanced and mature Christians still on earth will take the brunt of the persecution which will be an integral part of the intensified conflict of the time. The wheat and spelt (or rie) represent Christians who will not be so severely persecuted, because, as a whole, they will not be out in the front lines of the struggle. The 'storm of conflict' represented by this Plague will not only be political and military, but also it will be a spiritual and religious conflict which takes on increasing importance as the struggle intensifies. The final conflict of the ages is not just the result of predatory actions of certain nations. It is the consummation of the age-long struggle for the minds and allegiance of men, it is primarily idealogical and spiritual.

The wheat and spelt represent Christians who have matured very little previous to the Great Tribulation and those who are converted during that period, for multitudes will turn to God in that day. Spelt is another type of wheat, but of inferior quality and <u>very</u> difficult to clean of its chaff. It becomes a type of the 30-fold Christians who will be preserved by God's almighty power through the Tribulation to continue to live on earth, but not within the confines of the Kingdom realm. The wheat represents those Christians in the 60-fold and 100-fold catagories who will be fully gathered into the 'barn' of the Kingdom (Matt.13:27-30). They will mature under the harvest conditions of the Tribulation period and the degree of progress and the maturity realized will determine their category and allotment. The 100-fold 'wheat'

Christians who will mature in the 100-fold state, will be translated and glorified at the close of the Tribulation and gathered into the heavenly Kingdom. The 60-fold Christians will remain on earth to be gathered into the earthly Kingdom eventually entering into immortality in human flesh. Since the 'barley' Christians have reached a commendable measure of maturity or ripeness before the Tribulation begins, they will all be 100-fold and will all enter into the heavenly Kingdom, - a sheaf at the beginning of the Tribulation and the rest at the close of the Tribulation.

As a result of the 7th Plague, Pharaoh was moved to relent and asked Moses and Aaron to entreat the Lord for removal of the mighty thunderings and hail (Ex.9:27-28). But Moses was not deceived by the pretense (Ex. 9:30) and told Pharaoh that he and his subjects would not yet fear the Lord God, but would sin yet more, toughening a hard heart. So it will be for many of the world during the intense pressures of the Tribulation period. Because of the seriousness of the world situation and increasingly chaotic conditions in many places, many will turn with feigned heart to the Lord and will seek out His servants to ask prayer for themselves. But once pressures seem to lighten a little and there seems to be a way out of their predicament, they will sin yet more and harden their hearts. However, God's true servants will not be deceived by those who are not truly repentant, the power of the Holy Spirit will be working so mightily among His people that the 'unclean and uncircumcised' will not go undetected, and they will not be permitted to enter and contaminate the assemblies of the saints (Isa.52: 1-2). Those who are sincere will be welcomed and helped, but those whose motives are tainted with corrupt designs will be discerned and exposed. Pretenders will not be allowed to remain and sow their seeds of mischief, for the Lord will have a pure work and the seed of the enemy will not be permitted to take root before being quickly dealt with by the true shepherds.

During the earlier Plagues it is said Pharaoh hardened his heart or that his heart was hardened, but during the latter Plagues it is said that God hardened Pharaoh's heart (Ex.9:12, 10:1, 20, 27). In the day of evil's consummation, the Lord has promised to send a strong delusion upon those who persist in not loving the truth, that they should believe a lie (2Thess. 2:9-12). The Lord is justified in doing this because He is able to know the point at which an unrepentant sinner will under no forseeable circumstances turn from his evil ways. God does this in order to more quickly bring about an impasse so that the catastrophic struggle which shall sweep away humanity's refuge of lies will not be prolonged (Matt.24:22). By causing those men to be more thoroughly deluded in ways they are

convinced they should follow, God is able to get them to more quickly set in motion those forces and actions which will precipitate the world into judgment. Also, His mighty deliverance is then more profoundly shown to men who do put their trust in Him, for those hardened to do evil must be more severly dealt with. Thus the conflagration and whirlwind of judgment becomes so great that none can survive, except those who are protected by God. The impact of such a world-wide reckoning with the sinful ways of man will long be remembered and told to succeeding generations, and will be a strong deterrent to any future deviation from the paths of righteousness (Ex.10:1-2).

#8 Plague, Locusts (Ex.10:3-20). The devastation under the 8th Plague added to that under the 7th Plague and was brought about by an invasion of locusts from the east (Ex.10:4, 13). Before the Plague came, Pharaoh was warned and, on the advice of his servants, became willing to relent and let just the men go, but Moses insisted that all go, including herds and flocks. Pharaoh then scoffingly refused (Ex.10:3-11). In the great day of battle which is coming, Satan will never cease trying to get the Christians to compromise in one way or another. Satanic-controlled forces in the dictatorial society of the beast empire will put every conceivable pressure upon Christians who refuse to conform and support the regime, but those who are determined to remain true to Jesus Christ shall gain the victory over the beast, over his image (likeness of his nature), over his mark and over the number of his name(Rev.15:2). In that day, God will protect and preserve them who place their complete trust in Him, and they shall be fully delivered out of the Egypt of this world and ushered into the Kingdom prepared.

Following Pharaoh's refusal, there came the greatest invasion of locusts ever experienced in Egypt (Ex.10:13-15). The whole land was darkened by them and tye completely devastated every green thing. Locusts symbolically denote the invasion and destruction by armies (Joel 1:4-7, Rev.9:7). The east wind bringing the locusts indicates vast hordes from the east marching against the west. It is but a further phase of the great storms of conflict shown under the 7th Plague. The nations of the east under the banner of the hammer and sickle, will move to conquer all who stand in their way toward complete world domination. Many nations and areas of the world will be affected, but the most strategic area affecting the final phases of world conflict will be the Middle East. That area will be almost completely overrun and the onrushing tide will engulf much of Europe, but the die is not cast for lethal annihilation through east-west conflict until the Middle East and Palestine are inflamed in war. The 5th and 6th Trumpets also symbolically picture these marching

hordes from the east (Rev.9).

The outcome of this Plague was an earnest entreaty by Pharoah with confession of sin and request for forgiveness (Ex.10:16-17). Although Pharoah's heart was later hardened again, indicating Satan's continued hold on vast numbers of people, yet the symbolic entreaty is significant. It shows that many people of the world, especially in western nations, will earnestly seek divine help as they see the increasing threat of attack and invasion by armies of the east. In answer to this entreaty there will be a quickening of the Holy Spirit to further a revival which will be already sweeping through the world. Particularly in the west, where Christian influence and training have been more thoroughly ingrained in the mental fabric of the peoples, there will be a turning to the Lord as never before and this influence will begin to reach into the higher levels of leadership and government. Many will begin to break loose from the Satanic delusions that have held them and they will see that further compromise with the beast of communism means certain suicide. For the first time in years, a real desire and will to resist further communist advances will rise up in those western nations which have been strongholds of Protestant Christianity. By this time most Catholic countries will have been completely taken over by Communist forces and the Vatican hierarchy will have fled to the North American continent. An awakened Christendom in the nations which still have a small measure of freedom will spur those in authority to action. Coupled with this will be revival awakening among Jewish people, as many of them will have turned from unbelief and accepted Jesus as their Messiah. Along with religious revival will be the concern of most Jews for the nation of Israel, for Palestine will be threatened with complete desecration by communist hordes.

It will then be fulfilled, according to the type, that the 'Lord turned a violent west wind which took away the locusts and drove them into the Red Sea' (Ex.10:19). The strong west wind is the might of the western nations rising to strike down the communist forces, possible only because of the Lord's wisdom and strategy which will be given to those in authority by His specially chosen servants of that day. Were it not for the 'arm of the Lord' rising to help those who will have cried out to their God, there would be no hope of turning the tide of communist conquest. It is the Lord Who shall battle for His people in that day. The armies of 'Gog' shall be utterly confounded (Ezek.38 and 39) and they shall be driven into a 'Red Sea' of destruction. Truly the Lord shall be exalted in that day and all shall know that His mighty arm has worked deliverance for those who look to Him. The turning back of the 'red' hordes will be accompanied by the beginnings of a

short nuclear holocaust as the Satan-controlled leaders of the Kremlin try desperately to ward off certain defeat. Seeing their plans for world domination frustrated, they will make one last effort to destroy the western nations by unleashing their nuclear weapon arsenal. This will be met by the mounting of the atomic armada of the west. There will be much destruction on both sides, but in the Lord's providence He will see that the Satan-inspired conspiracy of communism is completely crushed. The battle will begin shortly after the half-way mark in the 3½ years described in Rev.11, 12 and 13, and it will continue throughout a period of almost 21 months, even to the end of the Age. The earth will be covered with her slain in that day.

#9 Plague, Darkness (Ex.10:21-29). As Pharaoh's heart was hardened again, Moses was commanded to stretch out his hand toward heaven that there might be a darkness over the land of Egypt which might be felt (Ex.10:21-22), and the intense darkness was to last 3 days. All of the Plagues continue into and during the Great Tribulation period, but the 7th and 8th Plagues are effective only during the Tribulation period and primarily the last-half of that period. It was not feasible to show much of the detail of fulfillment in the type, therefore, the Lord is now showing by revelation how the Plagues dovetail together in their end-time application. The 9th Plague also falls during the entire Great Tribulation. In type, it is placed at this point in the sequence, because of the intensity of darkness which will characterize the latter part of the tribulation period. The 3 days of darkness symbolize the approximate 3 years of Great Tribulation for in this the Lord appoints one day for a year (Ezek.4:6). The Tribulation period will actually take place within a period of 3½ years, but in typical drama of Scripture the round number usage prevails when portraying time patterns.

The Egyptians could not see one another, nor did they rise out of their place for 3 days, but the Israelites had light in their dwellings (Ex.10:22-23). This light was a supernatural light provided for the Israelites only, it being a manifestation of the 'shekinah' glory of God. Likewise in the days of Great Tribulation, the 'Light' will be the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit for those who are indwelt by His power and glory and also it will be the supernatural appearance of the glorified saints to give instruction and help. The Lord will not leave His own to grope in the darkness of fear and uncertainty as the people of the world will do (IThess.5:1-9). He will guide and protect, even during the days of extreme crises when the world will be plunged into almost complete chaos. The world (Egypt) will be filled with terror, its people not knowing what to do or where to go (Isa. 13:4-8), and for those not 'awake'

it will be a time of gross and intense darkness such as the world has never seen. Many shall perish for lack of direction. People will be afraid to venture out and will cower in their houses like frightened animals during the final phase of the east-west conflict. The Lord will send a spirit of delusion upon them because they do now and continue then to refuse the light and truth (2Thess.2:9-12).

As a result of the Plague, Pharaoh offered to let the people go if they would leave their flocks behind. Moses refused because he knew God must be served with the entirety of one's being, not with reservation or half-heartedly. Moses indicated there was a need for sacrifices and burnt offerings of the 'flesh' to God (Ex.10:25). 'Animals' are a type of human nature's basic propensities, abilities and drives and all of that nature must be submitted on the altar to the 'fire' of the Lord's purging, that they might be sublimated and transformed and channeled toward His glory. The primary Old Testament sacrifice was the 'whole burnt offering', the whole animal burned upon the altar, typifying the dedication to do God's will with the entirety of one's being. The perfect fulfillment was when Jesus Christ gave Himself in life and in death to do the Father's will (Heb.10:5-7) and through Him it is fulfilled in all others who give themselves as a living sacrifice to their God (Ro.12:1-2). But nothing is to be held back from the Altar (Ex.10:26). The hoof is symbolic of the lowest or basest of human traits and not one can be left out of the sacrifice in Egypt's land; there can be no concourse with or conformity to that which is in the world. Those who would be used mightily in the Tribulation days which are coming must all be on the Altar as a whole burnt offering. For those who want to be received into the heavenly Kingdom of Christ, there can be no holding back, not even a hoof. There must be no provision for one's own fleshly ways, but those must make provision for the life of the Spirit, giving themselves wholly to the Lord so they may be a trumpet to warn of the coming day of battle (Ro.13:14).

Pharaoh's heart was hardened again, he refused to let the people go, and he even refused to see Moses any more. Moses, sensing that deliverance was close, agreed not to see him again (Ex.10:28-29), and the final Plague was at hand. The Israelites had been slaves to Egypt and had not received all that was due them and now they were to be delivered from bondage with much riches (Ex.11:1-3). They were specifically instructed to take whatever was offered them for their departure, but especially they were to ask for and receive jewels of silver and jewels of gold (Ex.11:2). The accumulation of these treasures for their departure is significant, because it is descriptive of what must be in the possession of every saint who is to be translated out of

this world to enter the heavenly Kingdom. The foremost of these is gold. Gold is a type of the impartations and the fruits of the Holy Spirit. It is also the tried and proven character that has come through the 'fires' of refining experience as pure gold. Silver is a type of the soul and soul qualities, and it is also a type of the redemptive work of Christ. Through the redemptive power of His cleansing and life, the soul is redeemed and made new, its fabric woven with the very righteousness of Jesus Christ. They were to take all of the gifts that were offered, and so are we.

The subject here is not just initial salvation, saving or preservation of the soul from death, for that is received through the shed blood and resurrection life of Jesus Christ. For those who go on to perfection (Heb.6:1-3), receiving the gold of His Spiritual workings and the silver of His complete redemption, there is to be an out-resurrection from among the dead (Phil.3:10-15), or a translation while living (ICor.15:51-54) into the glory of the heavenly Kingdom. The saved, the 60-fold who fail to make this calling and election (2Pet. 1:9-10) will continue to live on earth, eventually receiving deathless life for their physical bodies, and those 60-fold having already died will be resurrected back to the earth in deathless physical bodies at a time after the millenial Kingdom has been fully established, beyond the initial 1000 years of the next Age (Rev.20:1-5).

Now is the time to let the Holy Spirit do a perfecting work within, so you may be adorned with His gold and His silver and be fully ready to be received into the glory awaiting. The 'Day of the Lord' is at hand, and He is coming to His people as the rising morning sun. Only those who are awake when the dawn begins to break are able to see the light, for though the light is dawning, others yet asleep are still in darkness. He is calling to wake up (Eph.5:14-17, 2Pet.1:19). As the Lord called the Israelites to prepare for the darkness, He now calls for preparation in this hour, for this is the day of preparation.

#10 Plague, Death of Firstborn (Ex.11:4-10, 12:1-41). In preparation for this final Plague so they would receive protection, the Israelites were to take a lamb for each household and set it apart on the 10th day of the month. On the 14th day of the month, in the evening, they were to kill the lamb and sprinkle blood on the two side-posts and on the lintel above the doorway. (The need for the sacrifice of the Lamb of God was at the fall of Adam, and the sacrifice was 4000 years later). Each family was to eat its lamb in haste, fully prepared for departure and journey (Ex.12:1-13). The blood of the lamb upon their house was their protection during this final Plague in which the firstborn of man and beast in all Egypt were taken away.

The 10th Plague was the consummating judgment and constituted the final wrath of the Almighty on Egypt and her gods (Ex.12:12).

This final judgment on Egypt previews the fulfillment of these things at the completion of the Age which is drawing close. The Lord will bring an end to what is now called civilization, for it is almost completely contrary to His will, being based on the worship of many gods that are constantly placed ahead of or before Him. Even millions of Christians (symbolized in much of Scripture by 'Jerusalem') are preoccupied with the 'gods' of material things and pursuits of pleasure and have little time for serious consideration of God's Word and His ways. They are caught up in the Babylonish systems which are destructive to real faith and dedication, and they lean constantly on the'arm of flesh' rather than leaning on Jesus Christ (Jer.17:3-5). They have hewn for themselves cisterns which can hold no water and they have forsaken the fountains of living water (Jer.2:11-13). They rely on empty forms and dead works to try to accomplish the Lord's purposes. In the religious world it is either idolatrous organizations which hold Christians captive, or idolatrous unbelief clothed in sophistry and worldly wisdom which leads God's people astray. In the political world it is the selfish, grasping opportunists who dominate the affairs of most nations, leading them into paths of eventual tyranny. In the commercial world it is traffic in everything, including the souls of men with very little consideration for the ultimate welfate of human lives (Rev.18:9-13). Judgment has already begun to descend and it will not not let up until a mighty cry in the night has risen, even as in the land of Egypt (Ex.12:29-30).

The death angel which went over the land of Egypt, slaying the firstborn in every family where the blood was not applied, is a type of the power of destruction which will be unleashed in nuclear warfare, both in its deadly radiation and in the immense force from the massive detonations. There are two signs given in Scripture which are of utmost importance. When they came to pass every Christian should have been alerted to the imminence of end-time events. The first was the explosion of the atom bomb (1945), for in releasing the atom's energy, the very powers of the heavens are shaken and disrupted (Lk.21:26). Man found out how to interrupt normal functioning of God's laws and how to confuse them into the destructive force of atomic fission and fusion. The second was the Jews declaring themselves a reborn nation (1948), for this was the shooting forth of the fig tree (Lk.21:28-30). It is written that when you see these things come to pass (begin), know that the Kingdom of God is at hand, for this generation shall not pass away until <u>all</u> is

fulfilled (Lk.21:31-32). However, Christians are woefully uninformed and almost totally asleep and unaware of the significance of the time in which they live. A few here and there are beginning to awake and they are beginning to sound the midnight cry which shall rouse the sleeping virgins (Matt.25:6). It was 430 years from Abraham to the time when the Lord started to move His people out of Egypt's bondage. It also has been 430 years from the time Martin Luther became effective in the Reformation to the time our Lord began to do the new things of this end-time.

The pass-over of the atomic 'death angel' will affect all except those who have the blood of the passover lamb sprinkled on the doorposts of their hearts. It will be true again, as it was then, that when He sees the blood, He will pass over them and the Plague will not be upon them to destroy them when He smites the whole land of 'Egypt' (the world) (Ex.12:13). It is the blood of Jesus Christ, applied by faith to the sin-stained (rebellious) soul, that washes it clean and preserves it from death (IJohn 1:7-9). This is the present soul-preservation enjoyed by Christians (Eph.1:7, IPet.1:18-19, Rev.5:9), but it is that same blood that shall serve also as a protecting shelter for even the physical body during the coming day of wrath for those who do not leave the shelter.

The lintel was the upper doorway structure and stands for the physical which will receive protection. The two side posts stand for the soul which receives both cleansing and preservation through the shed blood of Christ. Spirit is not soul and soul is not spirit; they are separate and distinct in man's being (IThess. 5:23). Both soul and body are subject to death because of sin-rebellion, but this is not so of man's spirit, for that is of the very substance of God Who is the Father of spirits (Heb.12:9, Num. 16:22). The spirit within each human has been alienated from God because of sin and needs to be reconciled, but, once the spirit is reconciled through Jesus Christ, then its garments of soul-body and physical-body need to be saved or preserved from death. When a spirit begotten of the Father is placed within the unborn embryo (Ecc.11:5, Zech.12:1) and brings it to life (Jas.2:26, John 6:63, Gen.2:7), its innate powers take of the living substance within the developing organism and form a finely tenuous vehicle called the soul. The soul then becomes a garment of the spirit, a means or medium of expression through the physical. The soul becomes the seat or essence of 'personality', the mental-emotional-volitional nature. Since the soul partakes of and is sustained by the life forces of the physical, it is subject to death as is the physical body (Ezek.18: 20-21). Thus both body and soul need to be saved or preserved (IThess.5:23).

A doorway represents an entrance into something, but it

is also an exit. The lintel of the doorway represents the outer or physical garment of the spirit and the two side posts represent the inner or soul garment. A spirit makes its entrance into the physical world through the doorway of embodiment within the human embryo which is enlivened by it and later born into the world. A spirit makes an exit from the physical world through the doorway of death, losing the physical and mortal garment. A spirit needs garments or vehicles for its growth in understanding and for its continued progress in the plan and purpose of God (Matt.12:43, 2Cor.5:1-4), thus the death of either physical body or soul is a tragic loss for the spirit. In type, the blood of the lamb sprinkled upon both the lintel and the side posts is that blood later shed by Jesus Christ which would provide an atonement and release from death for both soul and physical body.

Cleansing and release from death for the soul come through applying the blood of Christ in faith (IPet.1:2, 18, IPet.1:19), but the impartation (possession) of eternal life is through the engrafted seed of the living Christ (Jas.1:21, IPet.1:23, John 5:24). When a soul is thus 'generated anew' through the incorruptible seed, it becomes a deathless vehicle for the human spirit. In the event of death of the physical body, the soul then becomes the functioning vehicle for the spirit in the superterrestial realms. But if the soul has not been saved, its life forces gradually abate and it slowly disintegrates, eventually perishing (Heb.10:38-39). The spirit, without 'garments' and naked, then ascends and returns to God Who gave it (Ecc. 12:7), for His disposition. In the coming days when the full force of the judgmental Plagues descends upon the earth, only the applied blood will avail for protection and deliverance.

This final Plague, the atomic 'death angel' which shall pass over the earth, has a measure of fulfillment during the portion of the Great Tribulation just prior to the Harvest uptaking, but its more complete fulfillment will be during the final days of wrath when all-out atomic war will destroy multitudes. It corresponds in the prophetic picture to the 7 Bowls of Wrath (Rev.16). Although in the type, the Israelites were not fully liberated until the 10th Plague was set in motion, there is here a veiled mystery which needs unveiling. It was at midnight that the Lord smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt and there was a great cry in Egypt (Ex.12: 29-30). This corresponds to the midnight hour and the shout heard by the wise and foolish virgins (Matt.25:6). The Lord smites the earth in different ways, and the final smiting will be by atomic holocaust, but the beginning of the smiting will be His strange work of shaking the church world with the calling out of the wise virgins at the

midnight hour. There is a veiled double meaning to the smiting of the firstborn. In a spiritual sense, the firstborn are those who will enter first into the heavenly Kingdom as a firstfruits to God (Rev.14:1-5). These are the wise virgins who will be received by the Bridegroom at the beginning of the Great Tribulation. In this way the careless church world will be smitten as by a thief who breaks into the household (Lk.12:39-40) to take away the jewels (Mal.3:16-17), and a great cry will go up from the nominal church world as the shock of what has happened begins to fully register. The beginning of deliverance of those who are fully the Lord's from the 'Egypt' of this world takes place at the start of the Great Tribulation. The foolish virgins and also the Tribulation saints will be taken at the close of the 3½ years of Tribulation, just as the 7 Bowls of Wrath are ready to be poured out. Therefore, there is a time-pattern which is somewhat veiled in the type. Pharaoh's willingness to let the people go shows that Satan's power will begin to be broken when the firstfruits are glorified. This is also shown by the disclosure that when the 'manchild' is caught up to God and to His Throne, Satan is cast out of his heaven and onto the earth (Rev.12:9). Because he knows his time is short, he comes down with great wrath and causes great havoc before his power is completely broken. The havoc is pictured by the Plagues that came upon Egypt when Pharaoh repeatedly hardened his heart (the great wrath of Rev.12:12); yet at the same time that he is 'hardening' his heart, his power is being gradually broken.

Ex.14: Pharaoh's heart was hardened once more to pursue the fleeing Israelites as they left Egypt, in one last effort to reestablish his former power, and so at the close of the Tribulation Satan will cause the leaders of the Kremlin to launch their all-out nuclear attack on the west. Since men on earth cannot pursue those who will have been glorified and taken into the heavenlies, the object of Satan's wrath through his human puppets will be the western Christian nations which will have been instrumental in turning back the communist's bid for world domination. The term 'Israelites' (Ex.14:2) has a two-fold meaning in its last-day spiritual application. First they are the saints who are taken and fully delivered from the 'Egypt' of this world. These will cross over the 'Red Sea' of destruction into the heavenly realm and Kingdom at the very close of the Tribulation and will be completely out of reach of Satan's final onslaught. Second, they are those Christian nations of the west which will largely turn to the Lord during the Tribulation, receiving deliverance through the blood covenant, but which will be the objects of Satan's final 'pursuit' of terror. As with the Israelites at the Red

Sea, only a miraculous and providential turn of events will enable the nations of the west to escape without being totally annihilated. At the crucial moment, the 'Red Sea' of communist atomic attack will be thwarted and the Satan-inspired hosts of the communist world will be buried in the very nuclear holocaust which they have begun (Ps.94:22-23). This does not mean that the western nations will escape all destruction -far from it. Yet, in comparison to what would have happened had not the Almighty intervened, the turning back will be regarded as a great deliverance. The deliverance of the Israelites and the destruction of the Egyptians at the Red Sea is the amplification and extension of the 10th Plague. It is one of the prophetic pictures of the final wrath of God, implemented through men, on all who are to be swept away as so much 'refuse' in preparation for the new millenial Kingdom on earth. In that hour only God's power will be able to deliver (Ex.14:13-14). In that day He will separate those who put their trust in Him, and the Angel of His Presence will stand between them and those who are to be destroyed (Ex.14:19-20). He shall be a protecting covering over the blood-redeemed, but He shall be as the darkness of chaos and doom to those who do not submit to His righteousness. The flood-tide of battle shall overwhelm them and they shall perish from the earth (Isa.13:9).

Ex.15:1-19: <u>After</u> the crossing of the Red Sea and the deliverance from the Egyptians, the Israelites sang a song to the Lord. In the end-time, <u>after</u> deliverance from the Great Tribulation, the redeemed and glorified saints also sing the Song of Moses and the Song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are your works, O Lord God Almighty, just and true are your ways, O King of Saints (Rev.15:3). Many shall see His great and marvelous works in this last day, and His power will be among those who are fully His, and His power shall be mighty in the overthrow of the forces of wickedness. But more important than this is that the inhabitants of the earth will begin to learn His ways, which are true and just. And in time, the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of His glory, and the saints in glory shall reign in righteousness over a cleansed and fully redeemed earth.

Our God is speaking a message to all men - a message of comfort and encouragement to those whose hearts are open to Him, and a message of warning to those who are careless and at ease in in the Kingdom. He speaks to His own, not to the world, for the world slumbers on, as is to be expected. They of the world shall not be awakened, except by the thunder-like peals of exploding bombs and clashing arms, but God is speaking to His own so that those who are asleep might be awakened and those who are awake might prepare their hearts for that which is shortly coming.

Even as you read these words, God is moving to do a peculiar work among His people, so those with open hearts may now receive this quickening afresh from God, which is the resurrection life of the Son of God. This moving is a fresh impetus to what He is already doing, and it is among those saints who are open to it that He will do a <u>further</u> work of <u>preparation</u>. The preparation is for a great outpouring, a glorious anointing, that is coming. Therefore, it is important right now to move with the Spirit in His work of preparation.

The hour is late, for even now the thunder clouds of tribulation hang heavy over the earth. Three times the Lord will bring terror to our own nation. First, out of the east will rise a Plague, a dread scourge which will cause great sorrow and woe. It shall bring peril upon this nation and will bring great havoc to the earth, but the end is not yet. Then after this will come a peril from the south, where there are rumblings of discontent. A mighty earthquake is now in the making in the nations south of the border, an earthquake that will completely disrupt the social, political and religious fabric of those nations in the south. In mighty terror and anguish they will rise up under the banner of the sickle to scourge our land with consternation and fear, for out of the south will come the terror of revolution as nations rise up to overthrow the yokes that have bound them. Not knowing the truth, nor the way to go, in ignorance they will acclaim a leadership which will lead them astray, and they will use weapons of destruction to gnash at those they believe to have been their tormentors. Great will be the cry of anguish from peoples of our nation as they behold the consternation and fear that comes from the south, and yet Christians seem to want to slumber on. Must our God awaken them with thunderpeals and mighty earthquakes? Must He treat them as He treats the world? Can He not expect more of Christians than slumber and ease at this time in human history? Surely the time is at hand for a greater number of believers to awaken to what God is doing in the earth.

In preparation for the 3rd and last time of terrible consternation, there comes real hope from the west coast of our land where the Lord will begin a great movement to bring revival to His people. From this west coast He will spread the revival until it covers the land to bring rest and hope and comfort.

The time of the 3rd peril will be a time of exceeding darkness and fear and destruction, for great destruction will come from the north (the all-out nuclear war from the Kremlin). Many shall perish in that day as the enemy comes in like a flood. It will be a quick work and a time swiftly covered, for truly none would escape if God's grace had not decreed a time of shortening (Matt.24:22). The people have become lamentably

wicked and the Lord's sword of judgment shall come to purge and cleanse and sweep clean this land so He may begin to build and plant and bring forth a people who will honor Him, and who will become the nucleus of a world confederacy of His people which shall be the peoples and nations of righteousness for all the world to see in the Millenium. For truly righteousness shall spring forth as out of dry ground (Ps. 107:35, Isa.41:18, 35:1), and the budding and blossoming of that which comes from a rod will the Lord plant in truth and holiness (Num.17:8). His chosen ones are to go out in this day to be a rod in His hand, a rod of truth and divine appointment to spring forth by His miraculous power and grace, to warn His people and to bring out a remnant to fruition in righteousness and holiness. The truth is to be taken across the land so that, when the revival begins, a people will be prepared to receive and to rise up as a mighty army in this last day to declare the soon coming of Jesus Christ and make a people ready for His appearing.

The Kingdom comes not with observation (Lk.17:20), and Christians are to wake up to discern things not seen by the world, but which come only to those who are open and yielded to the moving of the Spirit. They are not just to hear the thunder peals and the earthquake rumblings from the east and from the south, but they are to hear the still small voice of God's Spirit speaking in this hour. Yet a little while the troubles of the east and the south will be stayed, but now is the time for His people to move into a fresh anointing of the Spirit and God will cause them to speak forth His Word as never before.

Consider what God is doing, for it is His strange work (Isa. 28:16-21), a work which few understand. He sent Elijah into the depths of the desert to wait upon God and His hand overshadowed him and led him to Mt. Horeb, the mountain of God, delivering him from the hand of Jezebel (I Kings 19:7-8). This was the same mountain to which Moses was led as he brought the people out of Egypt, and God is preparing to bring a people out from the enemy into His Kingdom (His mountain) in this hour. Consider, for as Elijah waited at the mountain of God, he saw the results of a mighty wind which rent the mountain and caused the heavens to grow black and heard ominous peals of thunder. The east wind often brought with it storm and plague in Scripture (Ex.10:13, Ps.48:7, Jer.18:17, Ezek.19:12) and the wind Elijah experienced represents that scourge rising out of the east.

Elijah then experienced the rumbling of a mighty earthquake and Scripture elsewhere warns about the mighty earthquakes which are coming (Isa. 29:6, Lk.21:11, Rev.6:12, 11:13), rumblings of which are now beginning in the nations of the south.

Elijah also observed fire that encompassed the mountain and so shall the fire power of the atom's unleashed fury spew forth and encompass this earth (Isa.29:6, 30:30, Joel 2:30, Rev.13:13, 16:8-9). Even as God warns of the wind and storm clouds from the east and the rumblings of the earthquake from the south, so He also warns of the coming of destructive fire from the north.

After the wind, the earthquake and the fire, Elijah heard a still small voice, the voice of His God (IKings 19:12). This pictures the Kingdom's coming, but not by observation. Only those who are attuned to His Spirit and are open to hear His still small voice, will be able to see that Kingdom which is even now within believers and surrounding them at every hand.

But there is also His work from the west. By means of the Shekinah Glory, God dwelt within the cubicle of the Holy of Holies in the western most part of the Tabernacle. Perceive the pattern laid down in God's Word. When Aaron and his sons were consecrated to serve Him in the priestly office, they were told to wait before God at the door of the Tabernacle for 7 days. On the 8th day certain sacrifices were placed on the altar in the outer court near the eastern gate (Lev.8:33-9:2). Then, when all was in readiness, fire came from God's presence in the Holy of Holies to consume the sacrifices on the altar (Lev.9:22-24), and that fire came from the west in the Holy of Holies over to the altar in the east. God conforms all things to His basic patterns, and He will soon move by His Spirit in a way the world has never seen. This moving is like the fire from the Holy of Holies and it is not a fire of destruction, but a fire of His Spirit to fall upon those who have placed themselves upon the altar as a living sacrifice. As the fire came out of the west, so will the Holy Spirit move from the west coast of our nation until the fire of God's anointing has encompassed the entire land (Hosea 11:10), and this fire of the Holy Spirit will fall upon His people <u>before</u> the fire of the unleashed atom's fury falls upon the land. God is ready to do a work you would not believe if it were told. Consider the mighty prophet at Horeb, the mount of God. If you would be a prophetic voice of authority in the land, wait before God until you <u>know</u> His still small voice and move <u>only</u> at the directive of His Spirit. Count as nothing the abominations of this world and separate yourself to Him. He is waiting for His people, even now. Will you not hear and respond? Truly the Lord will have a people in this land, first a remnant which will do exploits in His Name and prepare in abundance for a great harvest in the land during an appointed time. The harvest will be reaped by the sickle of truth - truth for the present - as faithful stewards bring forth the Lord's wine of truth and righteousness

for this day. A new wine is prepared, and also vessels to receive the wine of preparation, but it is a wine too potent to be received except by a remnant prepared (a new vessel). It is a remnant which will be used to prepare a harvest in abundance. In a time of travail, the Lord will bring forth, in a time of grief He will be sought, and then it shall spring forth to encompass the nation from sea to sea. From the east to the west will the harvest spring forth in truth and holiness. But the time is not yet, for first a remnant must be prepared, and this preparation is now taking place. Out of the north and east shall a scourge arise and many shall fall in that day, but out of the west shall hope arise, and out of the south shall come bewilderment and fear.

After the firstfruits are taken out, the first-ripe of the harvest (a prepared remnant) shall be left on the earth to act as a ferment of righteousness and truth until all the 'grain' (the main harvest Christians) is fully prepared, for there shall be 3 'measures of meal' prepared (Matt.13:33). There will be a first lump of dough of those prepared and ready to fully partake of all the Lord has made available, a second lump which will see God's glory but shall not enter into the glories of the celestial Kingdom, and a third lump of insufficiently prepared Christians, who shall be cast out of the Lord's complete protection during the Great Tribulation. They will have to endure much hardship and suffering, for there shall then be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

There is a ferment of truth likened to the leaven of evil (Matt.13:33), but the ferment of truth works slowly, penetrating the fibers of the soil to bring forth what God has prepared. His ways are not our ways and He will cause us to seek the higher ways. Fermentation is a chemical process which causes a conversion of an organic substance into something new, for example the conversion of grape juice into wine. The process generally involves a sensible internal motion, the development of heat, and the liberation of gas which can produce pressure inside a vessel. Because of this action in new wine which is still in the process of fermentation, an already stretched and rigid old wine-skin (a container made from tanned hide) probably will not contain the new wine, but will rupture. From one perspective, new wine is a type of new truth and so it is said that it is too potent to be received, except by a <u>prepared</u> remnant. This called-out remnant is being prepared as a new vessel or wine-skin to receive truths and workings of the Spirit too potent for the average Christian and church groups. Each such new vessel must be completely flexible to contain whatever the Lord wishes to reveal to him or to do in him.

When the Lord begins to reveal new truth, it begins a 'fermentation' within, producing

an internal commotion, an effervescence, a breaking down, a restructuring, and an elevating in a readying for His Spirit fire to do the final work. This working continues until that truth has become mature and then, like mature wine, it is incorruptible, purifying and lasting. New wine will ferment properly and become mature wine, or it will sour into vinegar. Likewise, the new truth revealed to us will either do its proper fermenting and mature us, or it will turn us sour, depending on our readiness or lack of it. Most of us are slow to receive that which is new to us and it takes time for the new truth to do its 'working' and to finally reach maturity. In the meantime, we may experience a lot of fermenting action within - stirring, heat, pressure.

Two groups of 'firstfruits' have been mentioned. In the Bible pattern, the firstfruits was that part of the harvest which ripened first and preceded the main harvest. The two groups included the firstfruits which will be taken out, preceding the main harvest, and the first-ripe of the harvest which shall be left in the earth to act as a ferment of righteousness and truth, until all lumps (catagories) of Christians are fully prepared during the harvest. In the Bible pattern, the firstfruits were <u>especially</u> dedicated to God, and their presentation to Him was the guarantee of the balance of the harvest. Initially, one sheaf of the firstfruits was presented to the Lord in a special ceremony of the Passover season at the beginning of the barley harvest. It was not all of the first-ripe grain, but only one sheaf that was plucked out (Lev.23:10-11). Until this ceremony had been performed, no harvest work was to be done. The one sheaf was cut <u>out</u> of the harvest field and <u>brought to the priest</u>. As described in Rev.12, a male-child group is caught up to the throne of God, preceding the $3\frac{1}{2}$ years of wilderness tribulation, and Rev.14 describes this 144,000 group as being the firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. The special reason for this single sheaf of the firstfruits being taken out before the Tribulation is for the enabling of that group to encompass and protect and speak to the other group left on earth in the day of trouble. The caught-up group is to be a protective shield in the wilderness of testing. Having received their glorified bodies, they can perform such messenger service, just as our Lord did after He was raised from the dead, for He continued to appear and to speak to the disciples in His glorified body for a period of 40 days (a type of the 42 months of Great Tribulation).

Paralleling the taking out of the firstfruits sheaf, there is also the first-ripe of the harvest which is to be left on the earth to act as a ferment of righteousness and truth, until all catagories of Christians are as fully prepared as they can be, because there will be 3 categories to become prepared. These three

categories are to be brought forth during the 3½ year Tribulation period, which is the time of the great harvest. This first-ripe remainder, which God is now calling out and preparing, will become the 'ferment' to cause the 'working'. These will be willing to become a fermenting substance within the larger Body of Christendom, not by some 'fleshly' methods, but by the power of the Word of God and the working of His Spirit. This first-ripe remainder will be like the woman of Matt.13:33 who took and hid the ferment or leaven into 3 measures of meal, until the whole was leavened. She is as a woman bereft of and forsaken by her husband - not being with Christ in the heavenlies, but being left on earth - who desires to see the fulness of that which she has kneaded and prepared come forth from the oven. This remainder group will be given the desire and the means to be a ferment among Christians and shall bring forth the 3 lumps or catagories in these last days of the Age. The woman also corresponds to 'the woman in the wilderness' (Rev.12:14) who is to be protected from the face of the serpent after the male-child firstfruits is caught up and during the 3½ years of testing and Tribulation.

Just before telling of the woman leavening the 3 lumps or measures, Jesus spoke of 3 groupings of Christians as being 100-fold, 60-fold and 30-fold, which are brought forth during the harvest at the end of this Age (Matt.13:33, 23, 38-39). The 100-fold group is the lump of prepared ones which fully partake of all the Lord has offered. Those in this category will have permitted the full working of the Word and the Spirit, during which their human spirits, souls and bodies will have continuously come under the guiding of the Holy Spirit. These will thereby have become prepared to be joint-heirs with Christ to rule and reign within the glories of the celestial Kingdom and over the earth. These shall be caught up at the close of the Tribulation period, in the same manner in which the firstfruits male-child company preceded them at the beginning of that 3½ year period. They shall rise at the close of the harvest to help the Lord in the heavenlies as He proceeds to conform all things to His own realm. Each of the three classifications of Christians will be partakers in His Kingdom, but with a difference in time and also in the realm of glory. Earthly glory is not the heavenly glory, nor is the heavenly glory the earthly; each in his own sphere shall show the glory of the Lord.

The 60-fold group is the lump of second ones who will see the glory of God, but shall not enter into the glories of the celestial Kingdom (John 3:3). They will have come in too late to be partakers with the sons of light in the fulness God offers, but they shall receive His full protection as they trust in Him completely, for they are

the sons of righteousness and sons of the Kingdom, though it be but the earthly. They will become the firstfruits of the earthly inheritance with immortality in human flesh in the Millenium Age, as they continue to live on earth into that Millenium of peace. It will be their lot to enter that which is earthly, but in a fulness of physical stature and perfection which will be manifested by immortality in human flesh during the Millenium.

The 30-fold group is the lump of third ones (Christians) which will be cast out (temporarily), and which will not receive the completeness of protection during the Great Tribulation period. They will be cast out, because of their folly in not participating in preparation and because they are Christians who have sought their own desires first. They will have to endure much hardship and suffering in the time of 'weeping and gnashing of teeth' and will have to partake of the scourge, because of their lack of preparation before that day.

People are now living in a sacred hour and this is a time when the Body of Christ should seek God as never before. In the spring of 1967, the Lord started a new moving by His Spirit to do a work among those of His people who are open to His moving so that they might <u>be prepared</u> to receive a mighty outpouring, a glorious anointing, which is coming. This is a new and fresh move to bring about a <u>further</u> development in that spiritual Body which He is now raising up. It is the anointing that breaks the yoke (Isa.10:25-27), and He is especially anointing certain vessels of His choosing for use in bringing deliverance to His people. Particularly keen shall be the Spirit's gift of discernment among them, for many deceptions and oppressions of the enemy are upon those of the Body, and there is need for a great cleansing and liberating work among them. Those who will give themselves to the Lord quickly and without reservations can be used to help cleanse the Body of Christ from all the defilements of the 'flesh' and of the spirit as they move with His Spirit in that work of preparation to receive the glorious anointing (2Cor.7:1).

The Lord has shown that it is the "root of bitterness" which can defile many (Heb.12:14-15), being manifested by the enemy spirits of jealousy, spirits of criticism, and spirits of resentment. All three of these attitudes are the fruit or manifestation of the root of bitterness in people. Jesus was and is the pattern for His Spiritual Body. When He was on the Cross to purchase our redemption from all sins and defilements of the enemy, He refused the gall of bitterness (Matt. 27:34). Just as Jesus in His physical body refused the gall of bitterness, so is that same Jesus through the discernment and liberating power of His Spirit going to refuse the spirits of bitterness in His spiritual Body

(Eph.5:30). These spirits are primarily jealousy, criticism and resentment. The inspired Word of Peter exposes the jealousy of Simon toward the Apostles and the coveting of their power by the rebuke, "I perceive you are in the gall of bitterness" (Acts 8:22-23). Note also Jas.3:11, 14.

Along with the 3 'bitterness' spirits, there are two other groups of 3 each, all of which are especially troubling the Body of Christ at this time, and are hindering the saints from moving into their full inheritance in Christ. In the 2nd group are proud spirits, religious spirits, and deceiving spirits. In the 3rd group are covetous spirits, lust spirits, and lying spirits. This present move of the Spirit of God is primarily to bring cleansing and deliverance from these spirits of the enemy so that the saints will no longer be hindered, and He is raising up and anointing vessels of His choosing to be used in this ministry. He has promised keen discernment, and along with this gift will be the gifts of knowledge and wisdom, with much love and compassion, for this is a ministry of help and deliverance and not one of condemnation. Many saints are being vexed and oppressed by one or more of these spirits, and are not fully aware of it. They may sense that something is wrong, but they do not know what to do or how to obtain deliverance.

The 9 spirits mentioned are the very antithesis of the 9 fruits of the Spirit listed in Gal.5:22-23. How can the Lord impart love, joy and peace in the presence of the bitterness of jealousy, criticism and resentment? It is impossible to express genuine patience, kindness and goodness toward others, if there are proud, religious and deceiving spirits at work within. There can be little real faithfulness, humility and self-control evidenced in those who have succumbed to covetous, lust and lying spirits. Even as a physical body with chemical imbalance cannot operate properly, so the spiritual Body of Christ cannot be expected to function in full power and glory until the Spirit has fully liberated it from all the bitter and defiling spirits of the enemy which are so prevalent among the saints today. There can be no real moving into the fulness of His Covenant blessings and powers until there has been a real cleansing and liberating work. And only a special baptism of His love, a special impartation of His wisdom and a special enduement of His anointing can bring about what He has purposed. May there be an eagerness for rapidity in maturing and in manifesting the fulness of fruit. May the power of the Lord's presence and glory be so profound, and the cleansing and liberating work of His Spirit be so effective, that the saints shall <u>refuse</u> to drink of the gall of bitterness, so that Christ's love, joy and peace may reign within and so that the enemy will flee

(Jas.4:6-7). May that true Body be raised up with no more affliction by wrong spirits, cleansed from all defilements of flesh and spirit, until all as one man march forth to liberate a dying world, each member to fulfill his part in humble thankfulness for grace extended.

- REV. 10 -

After six angels have sounded the six Trumpets, all things are ready for the master strategem to unfold - for the mystery of God to be finished. So great is this final chapter in the age-long history of the Church that a special 'mighty angel' is dispatched from heaven to reveal the contents of a special 'little book'. The Greek word for angel simply means messenger or agent and can refer to anyone of earth or heaven with a special mission or message (Gal.4:14). :1 - This mighty angel is seen coming from heaven with a rainbow over his head and, from the description, He can be none other than the Lord Jesus Himself (Rev.1:13-18). It is He, the covenant (rainbow) God and the mighty messenger of the covenant (Mal.3:1), who is coming down to reveal to John the end-time message for His Church. He is the Angel of the 7th Trumpet, but before He blows the 7th Trumpet, He has a ministry to perform among His people in the power of His Spirit with an end-time message for those who will hear. This is a preparation for that which is to be released at the blowing of the 7th Trumpet. The blowing of the 6 preceding Trumpets unleashed forces of judgment, for '6' is man's number. Therefore, all six Trumpets deal with worldly or carnal events relating to the end-time judgments of God on rebellious man. The blowing of the 7th Trumpet releases great spiritual power, for '7' is the number of the Church, and the true Church shall be brought to the place, by the grace of the reigning Christ, where it will be able to receive an enduement of power such as the world has never seen. But first there is a preparatory ministry of the Messenger of the Covenant, the Lord Jesus Himself, as He comes to visit His 'temple' to cleanse and restore. This is the meaning of the content of the little book. :2 - The little book is open to give light and understanding, to give the revelation of the end-time purposes of the Lord for His Church. This light and understanding is even now being made known by the apostles and prophets whom He has chosen and the revelation will continue to unfold until the 7th Trumpet is ready to sound and the secret strategy of the Lord is ready to be enacted. Although in its end-time historical fulfillment the 7th Trumpet has not yet begun to sound, the voice of the 7th Angel or Messenger is even now being heard in a message of preparation. That which is about to take place on earth at the blowing of the 7th Trumpet shall cause the final veil to be removed. Then the secrets of God concerning the Church will be openly revealed for all men to

clearly see that which has been a mystery up to that moment in human history. Hear and prepare for the time is now short and much needs to be done in that spiritual Body being prepared for this end-time.

The mighty Messenger is preparing an end-time Body through the unveiling of the end-time message of the little book. He set His right foot on the sea and His left foot on the land, just as it is written that He will subdue all things under His feet (ICor.15:25-28). Do not we the end-time disciples of Jesus Christ and the members of His Body, correspond to the feet (the ones who come into that Body at the end of the Age)? Thus shall the Lord Jesus, the Head of the Body, bruise Satan under the feet of His Body, and we are to be those feet (Ro.16:20). In Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, the feet of that image represented the final historical stage of the system which began with the head (Babylon). In the same pattern, the Church began with the Head (Jesus) and is consummated in time by the feet. We are to be those feet of the Body with which Jesus will bruise the Serpent (Dan.2:38-44, Eph.1:18-23).

In Rev. 13, we see a beast rising out of the 'sea' (Rev.13:1), and then a second beast rising out of the 'earth' (Rev.13:11), but the mighty messenger is here seen setting His right foot on the 'sea' and His left foot on the 'earth'. He is standing triumphantly over both that which would rise out of the 'sea' and that out of the 'earth'. And so shall the 'feet' of His Body in these end-times triumph over the beast and his false prophet and their rule. John saw the Angel's feet (legs) as pillars of fire. The word for pillar here is the same one used in Rev. 3:12 where the overcomer is to be made a pillar in 'the temple of My God' and the same one used in Gal.2:9 and ITim.3:15 in connection with the Church. The Lord is going to use the strong ones in this day as pillars in His end-time Temple-Body, having been tested and refined in fire.

:3 - The mighty Angel shouts with a loud voice like the roaring of a lion, and only the Lion of the Tribe of Judah could thus roar (Rev.5:5). He is no longer meek and lamb-like, no longer like a sacrificial lamb which is dumb before the shearers (Isa.53:7), as at His first coming. Now He is bold as a lion and is using His Kingly power and authority; now He is as the roaring Lion (king of beasts) of the Tribe of Judah (the royal tribe). When He lets out His loud 'roar' a prepared Body of people responds in a matching of His powerful radiation frequency and enters into the lion ministry of the 7 Thunders. The 7 Thunders response is a lion-like ministry to the world through a prepared people no longer meek and lamb-like before the world, but bold as a Lion with Kingly power and authority. The voice of the 7 Thunders is the Lion or Christ ministry to the world of the Lord's end-time glorious Church.